



# Tactics In the Chess Opening 1

NEW IN CHESS

# SICILIAN DEFENCE

A.C. van der Tak  
& Friso Nijboer



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# Tactics in the Chess Opening

In six volumes our series *Tactics in the Chess Opening* covers the entire range of openings from a tactical point of view. Each volume has 250 fully annotated games, arranged by NICKEY, the opening classification system of New In Chess.

## Sicilian Defence

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# Najdorf Variation

Black plays 2...d6 and 5...a6

SI 4.6

□ Arencibia

■ Martin del Campo

Matanzas 1994

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♘c6!?

A provocative move for which there is no known refutation.

8.♘xc6

8.e5 at once is another attempt to prove that Black's previous move is no good, but after 8...h6 9.♗h4 ♘xd4! 10.♖xd4 (10.exf6? looks like a refutation but isn't: 10...♙f5! 11.fxg7 ♖xh4+ 12.g3 ♘xg3 13.gxh8 ♖e4+ 14.♗e2 ♖f2+ 15.♗d3 ♙c5+ 16.♗c4 b5+, and the white king is doomed, e.g. 17.♗b4 a5+ 18.♗xb5 ♚b8+ 19.♗xa5 ♙b3+ 20.cxb3 ♖a7+ or 17.♘b5 axb5+ 18.♗c3 b4+ 19.♗xb4 ♚a4+) 10...dxe5 11.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 12.fxe5 g5, and Black holds, e.g. 13.exf6 gxh4 14.0-0-+ ♗c7 15.♚d4 ♗d7 16.♚xh4 ♗c6 17.♙e4 ♚g8 18.g3 ♚g6.

8...bxc6 9.e5 h6 10.♗h4 g5 11.fxg5

11.exf6 gxh4 is good for Black, as is 11.♗g3 ♙d5 12.♙d5 cxd5.

11...♙d5 12.♙e4

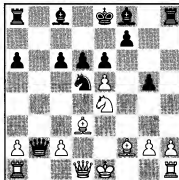
After 12.♙d5 cxd5 13.♖h5 ♖b6! Black has good counterplay, e.g. 14.g6 ♖b4+ 15.♗d1 ♖xb2 16.gxf7+ ♗d7 17.♚c1 dxe5.

12...♖b6 13.♗d3 hxg5 14.♗f2

An example with 14.♗g3 is 14...♙f4 15.♗xf4 gxh4 16.♘xd6+ ♗xd6 17.exd6 ♖xb2 18.0-0 ♗d4+ 19.♗h1 ♖xd6, with

good play for Black, Gongora-Abreu, Cuban championship 2001.

14...♖xb2



15.0-0

15.♘xd6+ ♗xd6 16.exd6 ♖e5+ or 15.exd6 f5 is good for Black.

15...♖xe5 16.♗g3 ♖d4+

Worth considering is 16...♙f4!?, a suggestion from the English grandmaster Tony Kosten.

17.♗h1 f5!

17...♙e3?! is risky; 18.♖f3 ♘xf1 19.♚xf1 f5 20.c3! yields White good attacking chances, e.g. 20...♖b6 21.♘xd6+ ♗xd6 22.♗xd6 ♚a7 23.♚b1 g4 24.♖e2 ♖d8 25.♗e5 ♚f8 26.♗d4, A. Vitolinsh-Drilish, Riga 1990.

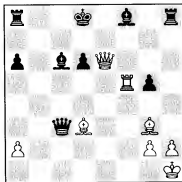
18.c3 ♘xc3 19.♘xc3 ♖xc3 20.♚c1 ♖a5

After 20...♖g7 21.♚xc6 f4 22.♖c2! White has good compensation, Müller-Dinstuhl, German Bundesliga 1997.

### 21...xc6 ♖b7

Another possibility is 21...♙e7, whereupon White plays 22.♙e2, e.g. 22...♙f7 23.♙f1 f4 24.♙c7 ♙e5 25.♙c2 fxg3 26.♙f1+ ♙g8 27.♙h7+ ♙xh7 28.♙g6+ ♙g7 29.♙e8+ ♙h7 30.♙h5+ ♙xg8, and a draw through perpetual check, according to Kosten.

**22.♙b1! ♙xc6 23.♙xe6+ ♔d8 24.♙xf5**  
24.♙f6+ is not convincing: 24...♙e2  
25.♙xh8+ ♔d7 26.♙h5 ♙f8.  
**24...♙c3**



### SI 5.2

□ Murey  
■ Yudasin

Podolsk 1991

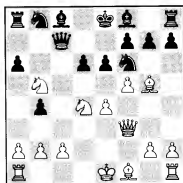
**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 ♗c7 8.♙f3  
b5 9.f5!?**

Other possibilities are 9.♙xf6 gxf6 10.e5  
♙b7 11.♙h5 and 9.0-0-0 b4 10.e5 ♙b7  
11.♙cb5, with very complicated play in both  
cases.

### 9...b4

9...♙c6 10.♙xc6 ♙xc6 11.♙xf6 gxf6  
12.♙d3 gives White a good position.

### 10.♙cb5!



The point of 9.f5!?. No good is 10.fxe6? bxc3  
11.♙xf6 cxb2 12.♙b1 gxf6 13.♙xf6 ♙c3+

Now ♙c1 is pinned as well!

### 27.♙f1 ♙g7

Covering ♙a1 and rendering 28.♙a5 harm-  
less.

**28.♙f7 ♙e5 29.h3 ♙c6 30.♙f5 ♙f8  
31.♙xf8+ ♙xf8 32.♙g4 ♙g7 33.♙d2  
♙b8**

White resigned.

14.♙f2 fxe6 15.♙xh8 ♙c6, and Black wins.

### 10...axb5

A better alternative may be 10...♙b7!?: after  
11.fxe6 fxe6, 12.♙xf6 gxf6 13.♙xf6 ♙xc4+  
14.♙f2 ♙e5 15.♙c7+ ♔d7 16.♙xe5 dxe5  
17.♙xa8 ♙e5 is very good for Black,  
Ernst-Ungureanu, Berlin 1988, but 12.e5  
♙x13 13.♙c7+ (13.gxf3 axb5 14.exf6 ♙f7!  
is unclear) 13...♔d7 14.♙f3 ♙xe7 15.exf6  
gxf6 16.♙xf6 ♙g8 results in a roughly equal  
position.

### 11.fxe6!?

The alternative 11.♙xb5+ leads to unclear  
play: 11...♙d7 12.fxe6 ♙xb5 13.♙xb5 ♙e5,  
e.g. 14.♙xf6 ♙xb5 15.♙xg7 ♙xg7  
16.♙xf7+ ♔d8 17.♙xg7 ♙e8.

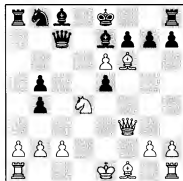
### 11...♙e7!?

Less good is 11...fxe6? 12.♙xf6 gxf6  
13.♙xf6, with good prospects for White.

### 12.e5 dxe5

After 12...♙b7? White had prepared the sur-  
prising refutation 13.♙xb5+ ♔f8 (13...♔d8  
14.exd6!) 14.exf6! ♙xf6 15.♙xf6! ♙x13  
16.e7+.

### 13.♙xf6!



### 13...gxf6!?

13...♙xf6?! would have been good for White:  
14.♙xb5! ♙c6 15.♙xc6+ ♙xc6 16.♙c7+  
♔e7 17.♙xa8 ♔d4 18.0-0-0.

### 14.♙xb5+ ♔f8 15.♙f5 ♙xe6

In the game Murey-Spraggett, Paris 1991,  
Black played 15...fxe6?! here; after 16.♙xe7  
♔xe7 17.♙xa8 ♙b6 18.♙a4 ♙d4 19.a3  
(19.♙d1! should be good as well) 19...♙d7,  
20.♙xd7! ♙e3+ 21.♙f1 ♙f4+ 22.♙c2 ♙e4+  
23.♙d1 would have been good for White.

**16.♙xe7 ♙a5! 17.♙xf6 ♙xb5 18.♙f1  
♙xc2**

18...♙e8 19.♙xh8+ ♔xe7 20.♙xh7 would  
have led to an unclear position with slightly  
better chances for White. Now the tension  
dissolves in a peaceful perpetual check.

**19.♙xe6 ♙e4+ 20.♙c2 ♙d4+ 21.♙e2  
♙xb2+ 22.♙e3 ♙c3+ 23.♙e2 ♙c2+**

**24.♙e1 ♙e4+ 25.♙d2 ♙d4+**

Draw.

### SI 6.2

□ Van der Wiel

■ Kasparov

Amsterdam 1991

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 ♗c7 8.♙f3  
♙bd7 9.0-0-0 b5 10.e5 ♙b7 11.♙h3  
dxe5 12.♙xe6 fxe6 13.♙xe6+ ♙e7  
14.♙xf6!? gxf6**

Bad is 14...♙xf6? in view of 15.♙xb5+, e.g.  
15...♙f8 16.fxe5 ♙e8 17.♙c6, with a win-  
ning position for White.

### 15.♙e2

Threatening 16.♙h5+. In the game Tseitlin-  
Gutman, Soviet Union 1971, White tried  
15.♙xb5?! axb5 16.♙xb5; after 16...♙c6  
17.♙d6+ ♙xd6 18.♙xd6 ♙c5 an unclear  
position arose.

**15...h5 16.♙d5**

After 13.♙xb5+?! ♔f8 14.♙xf6 Black can  
recapture on f6 with the bishop, after which  
White has insufficient compensation for the  
sacrificed piece. 13.♙xb5?! ♙b7! looks good  
for Black as well.

The moves 16.♖f3 and 16.♗xb5 fail to lead to an advantage (as well). An example with 16.fxe5 is Kuindzhi-Tseitlin, Soviet Union 1971: 16...♗f8 17.♖b3 ♖d8 18.exf6 ♖f4+ 19.♗b1 ♗xd1+ 20.♗xd1 ♖xf6 21.♗xb5 axb5, and now 22.♗xb5+ ♗c6 23.♖f1 ♖d6 24.♗xc6+ ♖xc6 25.♖b8+ ♗d7 26.♖a7+ ♗e8 27.♖b8+ would have led to perpetual check and a draw.

#### 16...♗xd5 17.♗xd5 ♗c5

After 17...♗b6 White also holds the draw: 18.♗xh5+ (18.♗d3?! and 18.♗d3!! do not convince) 18...♗xh5 19.♖g8+ ♗f8 20.♖e6+, Capelan-Polugaevsky, Solingen 1974.

#### 18.♖f5 ♖c6 19.♖g6+ ♗f8 20.♗hd1

After 20.♗xe5?! Kasparov has indicated 20...♗c8! as the strongest reply.

#### 20...♖b8

After 20...♗e6 21.♗xh5 ♗xh5 22.♖xh5 ♗xf4 23.♖h8+ ♗f7 24.♖h7+ ♗f8 25.♖h8+ it is also perpetual check.

#### 21.♖f5 ♖c8

21...exf4? loses: 22.♗xc5 ♗xc5 23.♖xf6+ ♗g8 24.♖g5+ ♗f8 25.♖xc5+.

#### 22.♖g6 ♖e6 23.♗xh5 ♖g8



#### 24.♗d8+

Or 24.♖f5 ♖xg2 25.♗xc5 ♗xh5 26.♖xh5 ♗xc5 27.♖h8+ ♗e7 28.♖h7+, with perpetual check.

#### 24...♗xd8

Here the players agreed a draw in view of 25.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 26.♖c8+ ♗g7 27.♖g6+ ♗f8 28.♖e8+, and perpetual check.

#### SI 6.2

□ Vitolsh

■ Yuforov

Moscow 1972

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♗b7 8.♖f3 ♖c7 9.0-0-0 b5 10.e5

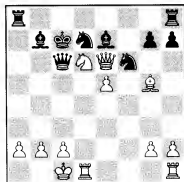
As we will see, this advance leads to extremely interesting complications.

10...♗b7 11.♖h3 dxe5 12.♗xe6!? fxe6 13.♖xe6+ ♗e7 14.♗xb5!?

For the alternative 14.♗xf6!?, see Van der Wiel-Kasparov. A third possibility is 14.♗b5!? axb5 15.♗xb5. In Kamsky-Gelfand, Linares 1993, Black had few problems after 15...♗c4! 16.♗d2 ♗f8.

14...axb5 15.♗xb5 ♖c6 16.♗d6+ ♗d8 17.fxe5 ♗c7

After 17...♗e8 18.exf6 gxf6 19.♗xb7+ ♗c7! 20.♗xd7+ ♖xd7 21.♗f4+ ♗e8 22.♖xd7+ ♗xd7 23.♗d1+ White has excellent chances, Bronstein-Ciocaltca, Kislovodsk 1968. After the alternative 17...♗d5!? 18.♗xe7+ ♗c7, however, the position is unclear.



#### 18.♖xe7

Other possibilities were 18.♗b1 or 18.♗x6. After the text Black can at the very least force a draw through perpetual check.

#### 18...♗xa2

Like this. With 18...♗d5 Black could have continued the fight.

#### 19.exf6 ♗a1+ 20.♗d2 ♖d5+ 21.♗c3 ♖a5+!

Black should not demand too much from his position: 21...♗xd1? 22.♗d1 ♖xd1 23.fxg7 ♗g8 24.♗e8+ wins for White.

#### 22.♗d3 ♖d5+

And now 22...♗xd1+? 23.♗d1 ♖xg5 would have been bad in view of 24.♗xb7.

#### 23.♗c3

Draw.

#### SI 6.5

□ Timman

■ Gelfand

Wijk aan Zee 2002

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♗b7 8.♖f3 ♖c7 9.0-0-0 b5 10.♗xb5!?

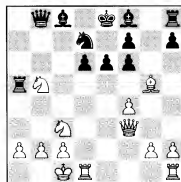
A sacrifice Black should always be on his guard against in the Najdorf. Black must play very accurately to stay afloat.

#### 10...axb5 11.♗dxb5 ♖b8 12.e5 ♗a5

12...dxe5? is met by 13.♖xa8 ♖xa8 14.♗c7+ ♗d8 15.♗xa8, but 12...♗b7 is playable; 13.♖e2 dxe5 14.♖c4 leads to a complicated position.

The books give the game Kengis-Dvoiris, Soviet Union 1982: 14...♗e7 15.♗c7+ ♗f8 16.♗xd7 ♗xd7 17.♗d1 ♗xg5 18.fxg5 ♗c8 19.♗c3b5 g6 20.♗f1 ♗g8 21.♗xf7, and now Black should have gone 21...♖b6!, with perpetual check after 22.♗e7 ♖g1+ 23.♗d2 ♖xg2+ 24.♗d1 ♖g1+.

#### 13.exf6 gxf6



#### 14.♗h6!

After 14.♗h4? ♗xb5 White has nothing left.

#### 14...♗xh6

This is more or less forced; 14...♗xb5?! 15.♗xf8 ♗xf8 16.♗xb5 ♖xb5 17.♗d6 favours White.

#### 15.♗xd6+ ♖e7 16.♗b1 ♗d8

The moves 16...♗b6 and 16...♖a8 have also been played here.

#### 17.♗he1 ♗b6 18.♗cb5 ♗xb5

To eliminate the threat of 19.♗f5+.

But in Lutz-Gelfand, Dortmund 2002, played six months later, it turned out that Black can easily play 18...♗a6!; there followed 19.♗f5+ ♗f8 20.♖c3 ♗xb5 21.♖xf6 ♗xb2+! 22.♖xb2 ♗d5 23.♗xd5 ♗xb2+ 24.♖xb2 ♗g7+! 25.♗xg7 ♗xd5, and a draw. It seems that Black had done some homework in the meantime!

#### 19.♗xb5 ♗xd1+

All this was still known territory! Timman had prepared the variation at home and knew it inside out, whereas Gelfand had to find every move over the board. He had already used a lot of time here. The text may be a slight inaccuracy.

An earlier game saw 19...♗c4! 20.♖b3 (20.♖c6 ♗d2+ 21.♗a1 ♗xf4 is good for Black) 20...♗d2+ 21.♗d2 ♗xd2 22.♖b4+ ♗d6 23.♗d7 24.♖xd6+ ♖xd6, and a draw was agreed, Brodsky-Timoschenko, Moscow

1992. The endgame will offer roughly equal chances.

### 20. ♖xd1 ♕xf4

Now 20...♗c4 can be strongly met by 21. ♖c6!

### 21. g3 ♖e5

Bad is 21...♗c4? 22. ♖d3 ♗d2+ 23. ♖a1 ♖h6 24. ♖a3+ ♖d7 25. ♖b4, and White is winning.

### 22. ♖a3+ ♖e8 23. ♗d6+ ♖xd6 24. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 25. ♖xd6

This is the endgame White had been aiming for. The passed pawns on the queenside give him the best chances.

### 25...♗d5 26. c4 ♖e7?

This loses; 26...♗c3 was called for.

### 27. ♖c6 ♖b7 28. cxd5! ♖xc6 29. dxc6 ♖d6 30. g4!

Now Black will lose the pawn ending. After the careless 30.b4 Black gets a pawn duo on f5 and e5, and White can whistle for his win. After the text Black resigns. It will be followed by 30...♖xc6 31.b4 ♖b5 32.a3 ♖c4 33. ♖c2 e5 34. ♖d2 ♖b5 35. ♖c3 ♖b6 36.a4.

SI 7.4

### ♖ Maeder

### ♚ Czaya

Correspondence game 1977

### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.e4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♖g5 e6 7.f4 b5

Polugaevsky's move, which leads to extremely sharp positions.

### 8.e5!?

The only way to try and refute Black's set-up. After 8.a3 ♗bd7 or 8.♗d3 ♗bd7 or 8.♖f3 ♖h7 Black will have fewer problems.

### 8...dxe5 9.fxe5 ♖c7 10. exf6

The alternative is 10. ♖e2. See the game Mendes-Ribeiro.

### 10...♖e5+ 11. ♖e2 ♖xg5 12. ♖d3

This variation has been subjected to countless analyses, but even in 2003 it is still unclear who is objectively better. In practice White has scored the better results, and no wonder: White is on the war path!

12.0-0 has also been played. A recent example is 12...♖a7 13. ♖d3 ♗d7 14. ♗e4 ♖e5 15. ♗f3 ♖xb2 16. ♖e3 ♖b7 17.a4 b4 18. ♖ab1 ♖xc2 19. ♗fg5! ♖c7 20. ♖xb4! ♖xe4 21. ♗xe4 ♖xb4 22. fxg7 ♖g8? (22...♗c3!) 23. ♗f6+ ♖d8 24. ♖xg8! ♖e5 25. ♗f6 ♖xc3+ 26. ♖h1 ♖c8 27. ♗xd7!, and Black resigned, Leko-Ghaem Maghami, Erevan 2001. Beautiful to watch but hard to fathom!

### 12...♖xf6 13. ♖f1

And here many games have 13.0-0-0.

### 13...♖e5

After 13...♖g6 White's strongest continuation is 14. ♖h3!?, with the threat of 15. ♖h5.

### 14. ♖d1!?

After 14.0-0-0 Black can go 14...♖a7 15. ♗f3 ♖f4+ 16. ♗d2 ♖c7, but the position remains hard to assess. 14. ♗f3 has also been tried.

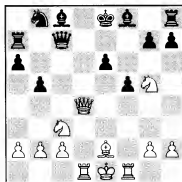
### 14...♖a7

Less good is 14...♖c7?!, after 15. ♖h5! g6 16. ♖f3 ♖a7 17. ♗c6. White was better in Beliavsky-Polugaevsky, Moscow 1981.

### 15. ♗f3 ♖c7 16. ♗g5! f5

A strong reply to 16...♖b6?!, is 17. ♗ce4!

### 17. ♖d4!



### 17...♖g8?

This loses by force. 17...h5?! is also suspect in view of 18. ♖xf5! exf5 19. ♗d5 ♖d7 20. ♖d3!, followed by 21. ♖c3+ and a probably winning attack.

Black's best option seems to be 17...♖e7?! 18. ♖h5+ g6 19. ♖xh8 ♖xg5 20. ♖f3 ♖g7, with an extremely unclear position. The white queen is boxed in, but how is Black to exploit this? White continues 21. ♖f2 b4 22. ♖fd2 ♗d7 23. ♗e2. The handful of practical examples we have show a good score for White. What does your computer think of it?

### 18. ♖xf5! ♖e7

After 18...exf5, 19. ♖h5+ g6 20. ♗d5 wins.

19. ♖f7 ♖c5 20. ♖xe7+! ♖xe7 21. ♗ce4 Black resigned in view of 21...♗d7 22. ♖h5+ g6 23. ♗f6+ or 21...♗c6 22. ♖b6.

SI 7.8

### ♖ Mendes

### ♚ Ribeiro, F

Correspondence game 1987

### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♖g5 e6 7.f4 b5 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 ♖c7 10. exf6

After this move, too, countless games and theoretical analyses have failed to bring clarity.

### 10...♗fd7 11.0-0-0 b7

The c5 pawn must not be taken: 11...♖xe5? 12. ♖xe5 ♗xe5 13. ♗dxb5 or 11...♗xe5? 12. ♗dxb5 axb5 13. ♖xe5.

### 12. ♖g4 ♖xe5

But not 12...♗xe5? in view of 13. ♗xe6! fxe6 14. ♖xe6+ ♖e7 15. ♖xb5+.

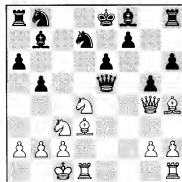
### 13. ♗d3

The thematic sacrifice 13. ♖xb5?! is unclear: 13...axb5 14. ♖he1 h5! 15. ♖h4 ♖c5 16. ♗cxb5 ♖xa2 17. ♖b1 ♖d5, and White seems to have nothing.

### 13...h6 14. ♖h4

Here 14. ♗xe6?! hxg5 15. ♖he1? doesn't work, as 15...♖h4 leaves the queen with nowhere to go! 15. ♖de1 ♖h4 16. ♖d1 fxe6 17. ♖xe5 ♗xe5 is also good for Black; he has plenty of material for the queen.

### 14...g5



### 15. ♗xe6!?

According to the books, 15. ♖g3 ♖c3+ is good for Black, while 15. ♖he1 h5 16. ♖xg5 ♖h6 17. ♖xe5 ♗xe5 18. ♖xb5+ axb5 19. ♖xh6 ♖h6 20. ♗f5 ♗bd7 21. ♗xh6 ♖xg2 22. ♗xb5 ♖xa2 23. ♖b1 ♖a4 leads to an equal endgame.

### 15...h5

Taking the knight, 15...fxe6?, is very suspect, as Black will not survive 16. ♖he1: 16...h5 (16...♖f4+? 17. ♖xf4 gx4 18. ♖g6 mate!) 17. ♖g6+ ♖d8 18. ♖xh5 ♖c5 19. ♖g3, and Black is certain to lose.

### 16. ♖h3! ♖h6

We'll take another look at capturing on c6: 16...fxe6? 17. ♖he1 ♖f4+ 18. ♖b1 ♖g4 19. ♖xe6+ ♖d8 20. ♖xg4 hxg4 21. ♖xg5+ ♖c7 22. ♖f4+ ♖d8 23. ♗f5 ♖xg2 24. ♗d5 ♖xd5 25. ♖xd5 ♖c7. Thus far a correspondence game Sarink-Boll from 1992. Now White could have won with 26. ♖xb8! ♖xb8 27. ♖xa6 ♖xh2 28. ♖xd7+ ♖e8 29. ♖xg4.

### 17. ♖b1 g4

And again: 17...fxe6? 18. ♖he1 g4 19. ♖g6+ ♖f8 20. ♖d3, with a winning attack.

18. ♖c7+! ♜xc7 19. ♞he1+ ♜f8  
After 19... ♖e5?, 20. ♜g3 ♘g7 (20... ♔d7 21. ♙f5) 21. ♙xh5+ wins.

20. ♙e7+ ♜g8 21. ♜xh5 ♙g7 22. ♜g5!?  
Unclear is 22. ♜xg4 ♖e5 23. ♜g5 ♔bd7.

22... ♖c6  
Less good is 22... ♜h2?! 23. ♙d6! ♜xd6 24. ♙h7+, or 22... ♞h6?! 23. ♙f5 ♙c6 24. ♙d8! ♜b7 25. ♖e4 ♙xe4 26. ♙xe4 f6 27. ♜e8+ ♔f8 28. ♜xg4.

23. ♙f5 ♖ce5 24. ♙d6 ♜b6  
After 24... ♜d8?! 25. ♜xd8+ ♙xh8 26. ♙xe5 ♙xe5 27. ♙xe5 ♖xe5 28. ♙xd8+ ♜g7 29. ♙xh8 ♜xh8 30. ♙e4 an endgame arises in which White is a pawn up.

25. ♙xe5 ♖xe5 26. ♙xe5 f6?  
For a long time Black kept finding the right move, but now he slips up. Correct was 26... ♜h6! 27. ♙d8+ ♙xh8 28. ♜xd8+ ♙f8 29. ♙xh8 ♜xh8 30. ♜g5+ ♜g7, and now the endgame is hard to win, both after 31. ♜xg7+ ♙xg7 32. ♙e4 ♙xe4 33. ♖xe4 f5 and 31. ♙f4 ♙xg2 32. ♙xg4.

27. ♜xg4  
And Black resigned in view of 27... ♙xe5 28. ♙e6+ ♜h7 (28... ♜f8 29. ♜f5+) 29. ♜h5+ ♙h6 30. ♙d7 mate, or 27... ♙e8 28. ♙d7 ♜g1+ 29. ♔d1.

SI 8.5

- Peleshev
- Odeev

Correspondence game 1988

1.e4 c5 2. ♔f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♔xd4  
♙f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♙e5 e6 7. f4 ♜b6  
8. ♜d2 ♜xb2

Gligoric once said: never take on b2, even when it's correct. Now the risks are indeed considerable, but this "poisoned pawn variation" is nevertheless played a lot, especially by correspondence players. Despite the many examples it is still not clear how poison-

ous the b2 pawn really is.

9. ♖b3  
Threatening 10.a3 and 11. ♙a2, catching the queen.

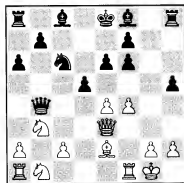
9... ♜a3  
Escaping the trap. Also playable, however, is 9... ♖c6 in order to meet 10.a3? with 10... ♔a5! Also possible is 9... ♔bd7, when 10.a3? can be strongly met by 10... ♖c5.

10. ♙xf6 gxf6 11. ♙e2 h5  
To prevent White from putting his bishop on h5. 11... ♖c6 12.0-0 ♙d7 13. ♙h5 would be difficult for Black.

12.0-0 ♖c6  
Playable alternatives are 12... ♔d7 and 12... ♜b4. The theory books will provide you with more information.

13. ♔b1 ♜b4  
13... ♜b2? is bad, as it leads back into the trap: 14.a3, followed by 15. ♖c3.

14. ♙c5 d5



Black returns his pawn in order to get counterplay. Less good is the other pawn sac 14... ♙f5?! 15. exf5 d5 16. fxe6 fxe6 17. c3 ♜e7 18. ♔d2 ♙d7 19. ♔f3, with good play for White, Robatsch-Kortchnoi, Palma de Mallorca 1972.

15. exd5 ♖e7 16. ♖c3 ♙f5  
Here, 16... ♙d7 has been suggested as an improvement.

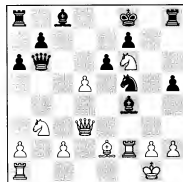
17. ♙b6 ♜b8+ 18. ♙f2

18. ♜h1?! h4 (threatening 19... ♔g3+) 19. ♙g4 ♖c3 20. ♙a4 ♜a7 costs White the exchange.

18... ♙d6  
After 18... ♜e3 19. ♖e4 ♜xd3 ♙e7 21. ♙e1 White has the better position, Mecking-Tal, Las Palmas 1975.

19. ♖e4  
This looks obvious, but it doesn't yield much. Another possibility is 19. dxe6 fxe6 20. ♖e4 ♙f7 (after 20... ♜e3 White has the trick 21. ♔d5! ♜xe4 22. ♔xf6+, winning a pawn, but 20... ♜e6?! is worth considering: after 21. ♜xc6+ bxc6 22. ♙d3 ♙f7 23. ♙xf5 exf5, Black's pawn formation is in tatters, but taking into account his bishop pair, his position isn't all that much worse) 21. ♙c4 ♜c3 22. ♜xf5! ♜xc3 23. ♜e4; with 23... ♙c5 Black can win the exchange, but then 24. ♖xc5 ♜xa1+ 25. ♙f1 is strong.

19... ♙xf4 20. ♔xf6+ ♜f8!



20... ♜e7 is strongly met by 21. dxe6!, as witness 21... ♙f6?! 22. ♜xf5 ♜xf2+ 23. ♜xf2 exf5 24. ♔d5+, with advantage; 21... ♙xc6? 22. ♔d5+ ♙xd5 23. ♜xd5 ♙xh2+ 24. ♜xh2 ♜xf2 25. ♜e5+, winning; and 21... ♜xf6 22. ♜f3 ♜e3 23. ♜xf4 ♜xf4 24. ♙xf4, with a slightly better position for White.

21. ♜c3 ♙xh2+ 22. ♜xh2  
Suspect is 22. ♜f1?!, when Black can safely play the strong 22... ♜e7!. He can also try

22... ♖e3+ 23. ♖e1 ♙g3, although this is not completely clear after 24. ♖c5! (24. ♔d7+? ♙xd7 25. ♜xh8+ ♜e7 26. ♜xa8 ♔xg2+, and Black wins) 24... ♙xf2+ 25. ♜xf2 ♔f5 26. ♖e1. After the text-move the game is drawn because of perpetual check.

22... ♜xf2 23. ♔d7+ ♜g8 24. ♙f6+ ♜f8 25. ♔d7+ ♜g8 26. ♙f6+ ♜f8.  
Draw.

SI 8.8

- Grechikhin
- Popov, Valery

Cherepovets 1997

1.e4 c5 2. ♔f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♔xd4  
♙f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♙g5 e6 7. f4 ♜b6  
8. ♜d2 ♜xb2 9. ♙a3 ♙a3 10. f5 ♖c6  
11. fxe6 fxe6 12. ♔xc6 bxc6 13. e5 ♔d5

For the main line, 13... dxe5, see the games Brunner-Stohl and Gipslis-Kortchnoi.

14. ♔xd5 cxd5 15. ♙e2 dxe5 16.0-0  
Does White have sufficient compensation for the two sacrificed pawns? This is not clear, but the position of the black king is definitely rather scary, and in the last analysis the aim of chess is to mate the enemy king.

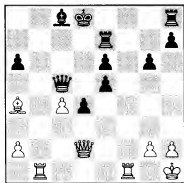
16... ♙a7  
Less good is 16... ♙c5+?! 17. ♜h1 ♙f8 18. c4 ♙xf1+ 19. ♙xf1 ♙b7 20. ♙d1!, with the threat of 21. ♜e2.

17. c4 ♜c5+ 18. ♜h1 d4 19. ♙h5+  
An important intermediate move to weaken square f6. Other tries have been 19. ♜c2 and 19. ♜d3.

19... ♙g6 20. ♙d1 ♙e7 21. ♙a4+ ♜d8 22. ♙e7+

The other move, 22. ♙f7, leads the game into a great theoretical complex about which we can only say here that things become extremely complicated and that both players have chances. Just consult the theory books.

22.♁h6!? ♚g8 23.♜f7 may be a good alternative.  
22...♞xe7!



This is an important juncture in the game. Other moves are bad: 22...♞xc7? 23.♞a5+! ♜c7 24.♞b6 ♚b7 25.c5 ♜e7 26.♞xb7 ♞xb7 27.c6, winning. Nordby-Engel, correspondence game 1982/83 and 22...♞xc7? 23.♞g5+ ♚d6 24.♞h6! ♚b7 25.♞xb7 ♚xb7 26.♞g7 ♜c8 27.c5+!, also winning. Paskanov-Kosenkov, correspondence game 1987.  
23.♞g5 ♚c7 24.♞fe1 ♚f8 25.♞xe5

After 25.♚c2 Black coolly plays 25...♞f5!, with advantage.  
25...♞b4! 26.♞c5+  
Here, 26.♞e1! ♚f5 27.♞g3+ ♞d6 28.♞b3 ♚d8 leads to advantage for Black. Rahn-G.Müller, correspondence game 1986. But 26.♞g3! is worth considering: 26...♚d8 27.♚b3 ♚e7 28.♚g1 ♚f4, with an unclear position with roughly equal chances. Traut-Zilin, correspondence game 1996.

26...♚d8 27.♞d1 ♞xa4 28.♞xc8+ ♚xc8 29.♞c5+ ♚bb8  
Less good is 29...♚d8? 30.♞b1! (30.♞xd4+? ♞d7 is unclear), when Black can only play 30...♞f1+, and White is better after 31.♞xf1 ♞d7 32.♞b6+.  
30.♞b1+ ♚a8 31.♞xe7

Now the game will quickly fizzle out to a draw.  
31...♞b8 32.♞xb8+ ♚xb8 33.♞d8+

♚b7 34.♞e7+ ♚b6 35.♞d6+ ♚b7 36.♞e7+ ♚b8 37.♞d8+ ♚b7 38.♞e7+ Draw.

### SI 8.9

□ Brunner  
■ Stohl

Dortmund 1990

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 ♞b6  
8.♞d2 ♞xb2 9.♞b1 ♞a3 10.f5 ♙c6  
11.fxe6 gxf6 12.♙xc6 bxc6 13.e5 dxe5  
14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.♙e4 ♞xa2

Bad is 15...f5? in view of 16.♙e2! fxe4 17.♙h5+ ♚e7 18.0-0.

16.♙d1  
16.♙xf6+ looks obvious, but after 16...♚f7 Black seems to have little to fear, e.g. 17.♞b3 ♞a1+ 18.♚e2 ♞d4 19.♞g5 e4, according to an analysis by Nunn.

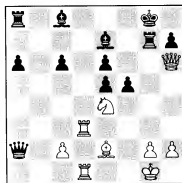
16...♙e7 17.♙e2  
17.♙d6+ ♚xd6 18.♞xd6 ♞a5+ 19.c3 ♚a7 is not convincing either.

17...0-0 18.0-0 f5  
Here 18...♚a7 is also possible, e.g. 19.♞f3 ♚h8 20.♞g3 ♚d7 21.♞h6 ♚f7 22.♞h5 ♞xd1+ 23.♙xd1 ♞a5! 24.♚f1 ♞d8! 25.♞x7 ♞xd1+ 26.♚f2 ♞xc2+ 27.♚e3 ♙c5+ 28.♙xc5 ♞xc5+ 29.♚f3 e4+! 30.♚xe4 ♞c4+, and a draw. Black has perpetual check. G.Andersson-Poulsen, correspondence game 1991.

19.♞h6  
The critical position in this variation.  
19...♞f7?

Not like this! 19...fxe4? is bad as well: 20.♞f8+ ♙f8 21.♞g5+ ♚h8 22.♞f6+ ♚g8 23.♙h5 ♚a7 24.♞f1 ♙c5+ 25.♚h1 ♞d5 26.♙f7+ ♞f7 27.♞xf7+ ♚h8 28.♞f6+ ♚g8 29.♞g5+ ♚h8 30.h4 ♞d6 31.h5, and White had a winning attack. Grünfeld-Helmers, Luzern 1979.

Correct is 19...♞xc2!, e.g. 20.♞d3 ♞xc2 21.♞g3+ ♚f7 22.♞xf5+! exf5 23.♞g7+ ♚e8 24.♞xc6+ ♚d8 25.♞b6+ ♚e8 26.♞c6+ ♚d8, and a draw. Velimirovic-Ftacnik, Vrsac 1981.  
20.♞d3 ♞g7 21.♞d1!



### 21...fxe4

Other moves are no better: 21...♙b7? 22.♙f6+ ♙f6 (or 22...♚h8 23.♙h7 ♚d8+!, and mate!) 23.♞xf6 ♚f8 24.♞d8 ♚f7 25.♞xh8+ ♚xf8 26.♞g5+ ♚h8 27.♞d7, and curtains; or 21...♙d7? 22.♙f6+! ♙xf6 23.♞xf6 ♞xc2 24.♞xe5 ♚d8 25.♚f1! ♚f7 26.♞g3+! ♞g7 27.♞h4 ♚b8 28.♞d7 ♚xd7 29.♞d7 ♚b1+ 30.♚f2 ♞e5+ 31.♚f3 ♞c3+ ♚d3 ♚f1+ 33.♚e2, and Black resigned, Krepml-Svendsen, correspondence game 1990. Quite complicated and virtually impossible to calculate over the board!

22.♞d8+ ♙xd8 23.♞d8+ ♚f7 24.♞h5+ ♙f6?

Now Black loses. More stubborn was 24...♞g6, which would have been followed by 25.♞xh7+ ♞g7 26.♙h5+ ♚e7 27.♞e8+ ♙d6 28.♞xg7 ♞b1+ 29.♚f2 ♞xc2+ 30.♞g3 ♞c3+ 31.♚h4, with advantage for White. Thus the analysis by the white player.  
25.♞h4+ ♙g5 26.♞h6+ ♞g6 27.♞f8+ ♙g5 28.g3

Black resigned. There is no defence against the threat 29.h4 mate.

### SI 8.12

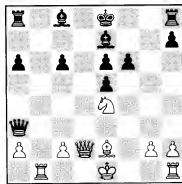
□ Gipslis  
■ Kortchnoj

Leningrad 1963

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 ♞b6  
8.♞d2 ♞xb2 9.♞b1 ♞a3 10.f5 ♙c6  
11.fxe6 gxf6 12.♙xc6 bxc6 13.e5 dxe5  
14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.♙e4 ♙e7

For 15...♞xa2!?, see the game Brunner-Stohl.

16.♙e2



### 16...0-0!

Not a good move, but this was not yet known in 1963. Stronger is 16...h5, when after 17.♞b3 ♞a4 the starting position of an extensive theoretical complex arises. White can choose between 18.c4 and Vitilinski's sacrifice 18.♙xf6! ♙xf6 19.c4. It would go too far here to go into this more deeply, so I will limit myself to one example to illustrate White's chances: 18.♙xf6+! ♙xf6 19.c4 ♙h4+ 20.g3 ♙e7 21.0-0 ♚a7 22.♞b8 ♚c7 23.♞d3 ♙c5+ 24.♚h1 ♚e7 25.♞e4 ♚d6? (stronger is 25...♞d7! 26.♞xe5 ♙d4, and after 27.♞g5+ ♚d6 28.♞d1 ♚c7 29.♞xd4 ♚xd4 30.♞e5+ ♚d6 31.♞b2 c5 32.♙f3 ♞xc4 33.♞g7+ ♚d7 34.♞e5+ ♚d6 35.♞g7+ it's a

draw through perpetual check) 26.♖d1+ ♖xd1+ 27.♗d1 h4 28.♖d3+ ♗d4 29.c5+ ♗xc5 30.♖a3+, and White won, Beliavsky-Hübner, Tilburg 1981.

#### 17.♖b3 ♖a4 18.c4 ♗h8

18...♖f7 is met by 19.0-0 f5 20.♖g3+ ♗h8 21.♖c3, winning. Vitolinsh-Gutman, Riga 1967, while after 18...f5 19.0-0 fxe4 (19...c5 20.♖g3+ ♗h8 21.♖c3) 20.♖g3+ ♗h8 21.♖xh8+ ♗f8 22.♖g5 Black is also finished.

#### 19.0-0 ♖a7

19...♖f7 is met by 20.♖h5.

#### 20.♖h6 f5?

This loses. More stubborn was 20...♖a5; after 21.♗xf6! ♖c5+ 22.♗h1 ♗xf6 23.♖xf6 ♖g7 24.♖c3! ♖e7 25.♖xh8+ ♖xh8 26.♖b8 White is better, but the game is by no means won yet.

#### 21.♖g3 ♖b4

Now it is over at once; but 21...♖f7 22.♖h5 fxe4 23.♗xf7 ♗c5+ 24.♖c3! ♗xe3+ 25.♖xe3 would not have saved Black either, nor would 21...♖g8 22.♖xg8+ ♗xg8 23.♗f6+ ♗xf6 24.♖xf6 ♖a5 25.♖d1.

#### 22.♗f6!

Black resigned. White is threatening 23.♖h8+! ♗f8 24.♖g8 mate, to which there is no adequate reply: 22...♖d8 23.♗xh7 ♖xh7 24.♖f6+, or 22...♖a7 23.♖g5.

### SI 9.2

□ Keres

■ Najdorf

Goleborg 1965

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♖g5 e7 7.f4 ♗e7 8.♖f3 h6 9.♖h4 g5?!

An interesting but dubious idea. In the same round of the tournament this was also played in Geller-Panno and Spassky-Pilnik!

10.fxg5 ♗fd7 11.♗xe6!?

11.♖h5!? ♗e5 12.♖g3 ♗xg5 13.♗e2 is another option, but the text is far more direct. 11...fxe6 12.♖h5+ ♗f8 13.♖b5!



Geller seems to have been the first player to go for this surprising bishop move, with Spassky and Keres following in his footsteps. After 13.♖d3? the white attack stalls: 13...♗e5 14.0-0+ ♗g7 15.♖g3 ♗b7.

#### 13...♗g7?

After 13...axb5?, 14.0-0+ wins. In Geller-Panno White was also winning after 13...♗e5? 14.♖g3 ♗xg5 15.0-0+ ♗e7 16.♖xe5? This line reveals the point of 13.♖b5!; if 14...♗b7 then 15.♖xd7 wins.

Later it was discovered that Black's strongest possibility is 13...♖h7!; despite extensive analyses, no clear win for White was found after this move, although he can count on at least a draw through perpetual check, as in, for instance, Timman-Stean, London 1973: 14.♖g6 ♖f7 15.♖xh6+ ♗g8 16.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 17.♗x1 ♗e5 18.♗c4 ♗xc4, and drawn.

#### 14.0-0 ♖e5

14...♖g8 15.g6 wins for White.

15.♖g3 ♗g6 16.gxh6+ ♖xh6 17.♖f7+! ♗xf7 18.♖xh6 axb5

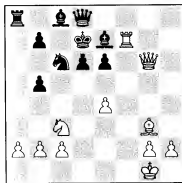
Other moves are no better: 18...♖h8 19.♖f1+ ♗f6 20.♗e8+! ♗x8 21.♖xg6+ ♗e7 22.♖x6 ♖xf6 23.♗xd6+, or 18...♖f6 19.♖h7+ ♗f8 20.♖g6 axb5 21.♖f1.

#### 19.♖f1+ ♗e8

Or 19...♗f6 20.♖h7+ ♗f8 21.♖xg6, winning.

#### 20.♖xg6+ ♗d7 21.♖f7 ♗c6

After 21...b4, 22.♗d5! exd5 23.exd5! wins, while 21...♗e6 would have been met by 22.♖h7 ♗g5 23.e5 d5 24.♖d3.



#### 22.♗d5!

The knight intervenes decisively! The pinning of ♗e7 will spell the end for Black.

#### 22...♖xa2

Or 22...exd5 23.♖xd6+ ♗e8 24.♖g6!, with decisive threats, e.g. 24...♗d7 25.exd5.

#### 23.h4

Up to this point, the game Spassky-Pilnik was identical! Now Spassky played 23.h4, also with a quick win for White.

#### 23...♖h8 24.♗xe7 ♗xe7 25.♖g5

Black resigned.

### SI 9.7

□ Georgiev, Krum

■ Inklov

Varna 1977

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♖g5 e7 7.f4 ♗e7 8.♖f3

♖c7 9.0-0-0 ♗d7 10.♖d3 b5 11.♖he1 ♖b7 12.♗d5?!

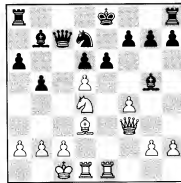
A well-known sacrifice in these kinds of position with the rook on e1, but its correctness is more than questionable. For 12.♖g3, see the game Lassen-Karlsson.

#### 12...♗xd5

Black can probably just take the knight with the pawn. In the game Vitolinsh-Zilber, Soviet Union 1973, White won beautifully: 12...exd5! 13.♗f5 ♖f8? 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 ♗e4 16.♗xe4 dxe4 17.♗e4 ♖c4 18.e6 ♗f6 19.exf7++ ♗xf7 20.♗h6+, and Black resigned. Later it was found, however, that after 13...♗f8! 14.♖g3 dxe4 15.♗xe4 ♗xe4 16.♗xe4 ♖ce5! White does not have enough compensation for the sacrificed piece.

#### 13.exd5 ♖xg5

13...♗xd5? is met by 14.♖xd5! exd5 15.♖xe7+ ♗f8 16.♖f5 ♖d8 17.♗e6!, winning.



#### 14.♖xe6!?

14.fxg5 ♗e5 yields White nothing. Hence this spectacular rook sacrifice.

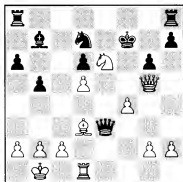
#### 14...fxe6 15.♗xe6

After 15.♖h5+? g6 16.♖xg6+ hxg6! 17.♖xh8+ ♗f8 18.♗xe6 ♗xf4+ 19.♗f4 0-0-0 Black has averted all danger.

#### 15...♖b6 16.♖h5+ g6 17.♖xg5

17.♖xg6+?! is unclear: 17...♗e7 18.♖xg5+ ♗f6, e.g. 19.♖h5 ♖c3+ 20.♗b1 ♖ag8

21.♖g7 ♖c8 22.♖h4 ♖xg7 23.♖e1 ♖xe1+  
24.♖xe1+ ♖d8, and Black is probably fine.  
17...♖e3+ 18.♖b1  
Does White now really have enough compensation for his rook?  
18...♖f7



19.♖h6  
19.♖h4 is probably stronger; after 19...♖e8  
20.♖e1 ♖d2 (20...♖b7 loses after 21.♖h6)  
White can go for perpetual check with  
21.♖d8+! ♖xd8 22.♖e7+ ♖g8 23.♖e6+.  
19...♖xd5?!  
Later it was found that Black should have  
played 19...♖ag8!, e.g. 20.♖g5+ ♖e8  
21.♖h4 ♖d8! 22.♖e1 ♖b6 23.♖f7+ ♖c8  
24.♖xh8 ♖xh8 25.♖xg6 ♖d8!, with advantage  
for Black, Maliszewski-Surowiak, correspondence  
game 1992.  
20.♖g7+! ♖xe6 21.f5+! gxf5 22.♖xf5+!  
There's no end to White's sacrifices. But will  
he win?  
22...♖xf5 23.♖f1+ ♖f4?  
Yes, now White wins! But after 23...♖e4!  
24.♖g4+! (not 24.♖e7+? ♖e6! (24...♖e5?  
25.♖h4+) 25.♖xe6+ ♖e5, and White is finished)  
24...♖e5 25.♖f5+ ♖e6 26.♖f3+ ♖e7  
27.♖h4+ (27.♖xe3+ ♖e5 is less clear)  
27...♖e6 28.♖g4+ it is perpetual check and  
a draw, according to an analysis by Nunn.  
24.♖xd7+ ♖g5 25.h4+

Black resigned. There follows 25...♖xh4  
26.♖g7+ ♖h5 27.♖f5+ and mate.

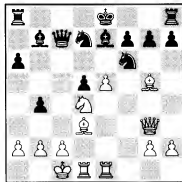
SI 9.7

□ Lassen  
■ Karlsson

Correspondence game 1981

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6  
5.♖c3 a6 6.♖g5 e6 7.f4 ♖e7 8.♖f3 ♖c7  
9.0-0-0 ♖bd7 10.♖d3 b5 11.♖he1 ♖b7  
12.♖g3 b4 13.♖d5!? exd5  
Now, as opposed to Georgiev-Inkiov,  
13...♖xd5 is not good: 14.exd5 ♖xd5 15.♖xe7  
♖xe7 16.♖xe6! ♖xe6 17.f5 g6 18.fxe6 fxe6  
19.♖g4 ♖e5 20.♖xe5 dxe5 21.♖h4+ ♖f7  
22.♖f1+ ♖g8 23.♖f6, and White wins.  
14.e5

The alternative is 14.exd5. An example:  
14...♖d8 15.♖e3 ♖b6 16.♖f5 ♖bd5  
17.♖d4 ♖f8 18.♖e4 ♖c8 19.♖xg7 ♖xe4  
20.♖e8 ♖f5 21.♖xh8 ♖e3 22.♖e2 ♖c3  
23.♖xf8 ♖xe2+ 24.♖d2 ♖d4+ 25.♖xe2  
♖xd1+ 26.♖xe3 ♖e1+ 27.♖d3 ♖d1+, and a  
draw, Kohlweyer-Tomczak, Baden-Baden  
1987. Pshew! For details of this sub-variation I  
will have to refer you to the theory books.  
14...♖xe5 15.fxe5



15...♖e4?

This is inferior, as we will see. Correct is  
15...♖h5!, with the interesting main line  
16.e6!? ♖xg3 17.exf7+ ♖xf7 18.♖xe7+ ♖g8  
19.hxg3 ♖xg3 20.e6 ♖e5 21.f1 ♖f8  
22.♖f5 ♖c8 23.♖e8 ♖f7 24.e7+ ♖g8,  
draw, Hellers-De Firmian, Biel 1989.

16.♖xe4 ♖xg5+  
If 16...dxe4, then 17.♖xe7 ♖xe5 18.♖xe5  
♖xe5 19.♖xb4, and wins.  
17.♖xg5 dxe4 18.♖f5! ♖xe5 19.♖f1!  
Less convincing is 19.♖d6+ ♖f8 20.♖xe5  
♖xe5 21.♖xb7 ♖g4.

19...♖c6  
Other moves are no better: 19...f6 20.♖xg7  
0-0-0 21.♖d6+ ♖c7 22.♖xb7, with a large  
advantage for White; after 22...♖hg8 23.♖xh7  
♖h8 24.♖f7, 24...♖hf8? fails to 25.♖d7+, or  
19...h6 20.♖xg7+ ♖f8 21.♖x7+! ♖g8  
(21...♖x7 22.♖d7+) 22.♖g6 ♖g5+  
(22...♖f8 23.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 24.♖f1+, and mate)  
23.♖xg5 hxg5 24.♖xd7, also with a large  
advantage for White, Variations by Lassen.

20.♖xg7+ ♖f8 21.♖h6! ♖b5  
21...♖xg7 22.♖xc6 looks equally sad, while  
21...♖d5 is met by 22.♖f5 ♖xg7 23.♖d6+  
♖g8 24.♖xd5, and wins.  
22.♖f5+ ♖g8  
Or 22...♖e8 23.♖d6+ ♖e7 24.♖xf7+ ♖d8  
25.♖xd7+! ♖xd7 26.♖f7+, losing the queen.  
23.♖f4 ♖f8  
Or 23...♖e2 24.♖xd7 ♖e8 25.♖g5+ ♖f8  
26.♖h6 ♖xg5 27.♖xf7 mate.

24.♖g7+!

Black resigned in view of 24...♖xg7 25.♖e7  
mate.

SI 9.9

□ Rodriguez, Amador  
■ Sulipa

Albacete 1995

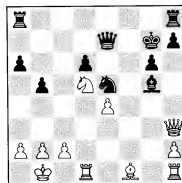
1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4  
' 16 5.♖c3 a6 6.♖g5 e6 7.f4 ♖e7 8.♖f3

♖c7 9.0-0-0 ♖bd7 10.g4 b5 11.♖xf6  
♖xf6 12.g5 ♖d7 13.f5 ♖xg5+  
Black takes the pawn with check, but he will  
have to give it back any way. For the alternative  
13...♖e5, see the games Tsurutian-Bang-  
viev, Oortwin-Schut and Ruch-Schmall.  
14.♖b1 ♖e5 15.♖h5

With this attack on ♖g5 White wins back the  
pawn on e6.  
15...♖e7  
For the other move, 15...♖d8, see the game  
Luther-Kersten on page 26.

16.♖xe6  
Here, 16.fxe6 g6 17.exf7+ ♖xf7 18.♖e2 ♖g4  
19.♖f2+ ♖f6 is good for Black, but 16.♖g1  
♖f6 17.fxe6 g6 18.exf7+ ♖xf7 leads to an  
approximately equal position.  
16...♖xe6  
Now 16...g6 is not such a good idea, as  
17.♖xg5 fxe6 (Timman-Ljubojevic, Niksic  
1983) 18.♖h6 is good for White now.  
17.fxe6 g6 18.exf7+ ♖xf7 19.♖h3  
19.♖e2 has also been played for White.  
Please look it up in the books.

19...♖g7 20.♖d5  
This is a minor drawback of 15...♖e7: the  
knight jumps to d5 with tempo. But the consequences  
are not all that terrible for Black. White  
looks strong thanks to the position of his knight  
and the weakness of square e6, but the e5 knight  
holds the black position reasonably together.





## 20...♖a7??!

Better is 20...♖d8!, e.g. 21.♖g3 ♗h4 22.♖c3 ♗a7 23.♗h3 ♗f8 24.♗h1 ♗af7 25.♗f7+ ♗x7 26.a4 ♗f3 27.♗d3 ♗e1! 28.♖xe1 ♗xd3 29.cxd3 ♗xh3 30.♗f4 ♖h4 31.♖c3+ ♗h6, with an equal endgame, Gil Garcia-R. Vera, Linares 1993.

## 21...♗e6! ♖c5

21...♗d8 is met by 22.h4 ♗h8 23.♖h3 ♗h6 24.h5, with advantage for White, according to the white player.

## 22.h4 ♗a8 23.♖h3 ♗h6 24.♗e2!

Stronger than 24.h5 ♗ef8!, and Black has counterplay.

## 24...♗ef8 25.♖e6! ♗f2

After 25...♗f7 White continues 26.h5.

## 26.♗h1 ♗hf8 27.b4! ♖c6

No better is 27...♖a7 28.♖xd6 ♗f7 29.♖e6, and White is winning, again according to the white player.

## 28.♗f2 ♗xf2 29.♗f1!

It's all so simple. The rook swap exposes the big weakness in the black position: square f6!

## 29...♗xf1+ 30.♗xf1 ♗d2

Otherwise White plays 31.♖f6+ ♗g8

32.♗e7 mate.

## 31.♖f6+ ♗h6 32.♖f2

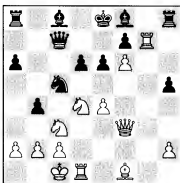
Black resigned, as 32...♗c3 33.♖c3+ costs him his bishop.

## 16...h5

16...♗d7 has also been played and was likewise met by 17.♗g7, with an extremely complicated position after 17...♗xg7 18.fxg7 ♗g8 19.e5 0-0 20.exd6 ♖b6.

## 17.♗g7?!? b4

Now 17...♗xg7? is bad: 18.fxg7 ♗g8 19.♗xb5!, winning. But 17...♖d8 is an option, when Black threatens 18...♗xg7 19.fxg7 ♗g5+. White can choose between 18.♗b1, 18.♗c6 ♖b6 19.♗e7 and 18.b4.



## 18.♗d5! exd5 19.exd5 ♗d7

The alternative is 19...♗g4, but after 20.♗e1+ ♗d8 21.♗f4, followed by h3, Black is facing difficulties.

## 20.♗c6 ♗b7

Bad is 20...♗e5? 21.♗xe5 dxe5 22.d6 ♗b7 23.♖b3 ♗xd6 24.♗xd6 ♖xd6 25.♖xf7+ ♗d8 26.♖xb7 ♗b8 27.♖f7, with a winning position for White, G.Mohr-Orel, Slovenia 1993.

## 21.♗h3 ♗xc6 22.dxc6 ♗e5 23.♗d7+ ♗d8

23...♗d7 is impossible, of course: 24.cxd7+, and ♗a8 falls.

## 24.♖e4 ♖a5

Luring the white rook forward! 24...♖b6 is also a possibility: 25.♗e6! ♗c7 (25...fxe6? 26.e7+) 26.♗xf7 ♗a7 27.♗d5+ ♗b8 28.♗g3 ♗c7 29.♗h3 ♗xc6 30.a3 ♗a7 31.axb4 ♗e5, with difficult complications, Glatt-Maliangkay, correspondence game 1997.

## 25.♗d5

After other moves Black plays 25...♗c7.

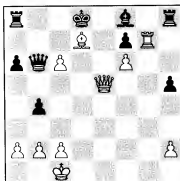
## 25...♖b6

25...♖xa2? is bad in view of 26.♗xe5! dxe5 27.♖xe5.

## 26.♖xe5

Now this move yields no more than a draw.

## 26...dxe5 27.♖xe5



## 27...♗xg7

With 27...♖c5 Black could have gone for the win, but then 28.♖e8+ ♗c7 29.♖xa8 ♗xg7 30.♖b7+ ♗d6 31.fxg7 ♗g8 32.♗c8 is none too clear.

## 28.♖e7+

28.fxg7?! ♗g1+ 29.♗d2 ♗h6 should be good for Black: 30.♖e8+? ♗c7 31.♖xa8 ♖f2+, and White is mated. Funny enough, however, the position after 30.c3 is not all that clear.

After the text-move a draw was agreed: 28...♗c7 29.♖e5+ is perpetual check.

## SI 9.9

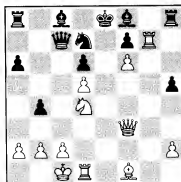
### □ Ruch

### ■ Schmall

Correspondence game 1998

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♗e7 8.♖f3 ♖c7 9.0-0-0 ♗bd7 10.g4 b5 11.♗xf6 ♗xf6 12.g5 ♗f8 16.♗g1

♗f8 16.♗g1 h5 17.♗g7?!? b4 18.♗d5! exd5 19.exd5 ♗d7



## 20.♗e6!?

Another way to insert the knight into the black position! But this certainly isn't stronger than 20.♗c6, as in Oortwijn-Schut. White can count himself lucky with the perpetual that will soon arise.

## 20...♖a5

Very bad is 20...fxe6?; after 21.dxe6 Black might as well resign.

## 21.♗b1 ♗e5

21...fxe6? is still bad, as 22.dxe6 ♗b8 is met by 23.♗g8!, and wins. Very unclear is 21...♗xg7 22.fxg7 ♗g8 23.♖xh5 ♗b7 24.♗g2 ♗e5 25.e4! Black is a rook up, but he has an extremely awkward position.

## 22.♖e4 ♗d7

22...fxe6? is still not good: 23.dxe6 ♗b8 24.♗d5!, and White wins. 22...♗xg7? is also bad now: 23.fxg7 ♗g8 24.♖h7 ♗xg7 25.♗xg7+ ♗e7 26.♖xh5, with a winning advantage. But 22...♗b8!? is a possibility, when Black does threaten to take on e6.

## 23.♗g5 ♖c8?!

Maybe 23...♖b6! is stronger. In that case, 24.♗g7+ ♗d8 25.♗xe5 dxe5 26.♗e6+ is not good in view of 26...♗e8, so White will have to play something like 24.♗e2, after which it is questionable whether he has enough compensation for the sacrificed piece.

## SI 9.9

### □ Oortwijn

### ■ Schut

Correspondence game 1994

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♗e7 8.♖f3 ♖c7 9.0-0-0 ♗bd7 10.g4 b5 11.♗xf6 ♗xf6 12.g5 ♗d7 13.f5 ♗c5 14.f6 gxf6 15.gxf6 ♗f8 16.♗g1

Besides this move by Perenyi, White has a wide choice: 16.a3, 16.♗h3, 16.♖h5, and even 16.♗f5.

24. ♖g7+ ♘d8 25. ♗xe1! dxe5 26. ♖e6+ ♗e8

But not 26...fxe6? 27.dxe6 or 26...♗xc6? 27.dxe6+, and White wins.

After the text a draw was agreed in view of the perpetual check 27.♖g7+ ♘d8 (but not 27...♗xe7? 28.fxg7 ♗g8 29. ♗h7) 28. ♖e6+.

## SI 9.9

□ Tsurutian

■ Bangiev

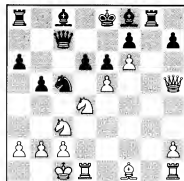
Correspondence game 1988

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♖f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♖e7 8. ♗f3 ♗c7 9.0-0-0 ♖bd7 10.g4 b5 11.♗xf6 ♖xf6 12.g5 ♖d7 13.f5 ♖c5 14.f6 gxf6 15.♗xf6 ♖f8 16. ♗h5 ♗g8

Black can also play 16...♗d7 17.♗h3 b4 18.♖ce2 0-0-0, and after 19. ♗xf7 ♗h6+ 20.♗b1 ♗d7 21. ♗h5 ♗xf6 22. ♗h1 ♗h8 23. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 24. ♗h4 ♗g6 the position is roughly equal.

17.e5!?

The idea behind the aggressive text-move is to open up the d-file. It is important that Black has no reason to fear 17. ♗xh7: 17... ♗g6 18. ♗h4 (or 18. ♗h8 ♗h6 19. ♗g8 ♗g6, with a repetition of moves) 18...b4 19. ♖ce2 ♗b7 20. ♖g3 ♗d8, and Black is not bad.



17...dxe5?

Now White can strike. 17...d5? is not good either, as this makes 18. ♗xh7 a strong reply; 18... ♗g6 is met by 19. ♗h5. The correct reply seems to be 17...♗d7!, and after 18. ♗xh7 ♗g6 19.exd6 ♗b7! 20.♗e2 Black again has the drawing mechanism 20... ♗h6 21. ♗g8 ♗g6.

18. ♗xb5-! axb5

After 18...♗d7 White had prepared 19. ♖xe6!.

19. ♖xb5 ♗b6

Forced, as 19... ♗b8 runs into 20. ♖c6.

20. ♗xe5! axe6

20...♗h6+ 21. ♗b1 ♖f8 is no better: 22. ♖c6 ♖b7 23. ♗d8+! ♖xd8 24. ♗d6+, and mate.

21. ♖f5! ♗b7

Again, other moves are not better: 21... ♗b8 22. ♖bd6+ ♗xd6 23. ♖xd6+ ♖f8 24. ♖xf7 ♖xf7 (24... ♗xb2+ 25. ♗xb2 ♗xb2 26. ♖d6!) 25. ♗h5+ ♖f8 26. ♗h6+ ♖e8 27.f7+, or 21...♗d7 22. ♖bd6+ ♗xd6 23. ♖xd6+ ♖f8 24. ♗h5.

22. ♗h1!

Now 22. ♖bd6+?! is less clear after 22... ♗d6 23. ♖xd6+ ♖f8 24. ♗h5 ♗g6 25. ♗xh7 ♗xf6, but with the text White keeps his opponent in a deadly grip.

22... ♖c6

Or 22... ♗g6 23. ♖g7+ ♗xg7 24.fxg7 ♖e7 25. ♖d6 f6 26. ♖f5+.

23. ♖bd6+ ♗xd6 24. ♗xd6

Black resigned in view of 24... ♖c5 25. ♖g7+ ♗xg7 26.fxg7 ♗xd6 27. ♗xd6 ♖e7 28. ♗xc6, and White wins easily.

## SI 9.9

□ Luther

■ Kerker

Bad Zwesten 1997

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♖f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♖e7 8. ♗f3 ♗c7 9.0-0-0 ♖bd7 10.g4 b5 11.♗xf6 ♖xf6 12.g5 ♖d7 13.f5 ♗xg5+ 14.♗b1 ♖e5 15. ♗h5 ♗d8

This is different from Rodriguez-Sulipa, where Black played 15... ♗e7.

16.h4!?

This move has yielded White good results. Other possibilities are 16. ♗g1, 16.fxe6 and 16. ♖xe6. If you want to know more about them, you'll have to consult the books.

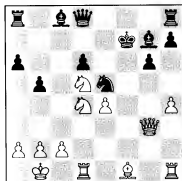
16... ♖f6 17.fxe6 g6?!

Now the black king looks in vain for a safe haven. Better is 17...0-0, although now 18. ♗h3 ♖h8 19. ♖d5 fxe6 20. ♗xe6 favours White. 18.exf7+ ♖xf7 19. ♗h6 ♗g7 20. ♗f4+ ♗f6?!

20... ♗e8 was preferable here, although it looks anything but solid.

21. ♗g3 ♗d8

After 21... ♗b7 White has 22. ♗xb5, and Black cannot take back: 22... ♗b5? 23. ♗h1, losing the queen. But 22. ♗h3 isn't half bad either. 22... d5



22... ♗f8

After 22... ♗e8 White plays 23. ♗b3 ♖f8 24. ♖h3, and wins. After 22... ♗e8 White can choose between 23. ♗h3 and 23.h5.

23. ♗b3!

23. ♖h3!?! was strong here again; exchanging ♖c8 underlines the weakness of square e6.

23... ♖e8

There was no other move!

24. ♖xb5+!

24. ♖h3 was still a strong possibility, but the

text is far more amusing, of course.

24... ♗xb5 25. ♖xb5 ♗f7

25... ♗a5, although more stubborn, was also insufficient: 26. ♖dc7+ ♖e7 27. ♗xd6 ♗xb5 28. ♖xb5 ♗a5 29. ♗d5, and Black will be unable to extricate himself, e.g. 29... ♗b4 30. ♗3 ♗d7 31.a4 ♗b8 32.c3 ♗a5 33. ♖e6+! ♗xe6 34. ♗d6+ ♖f7 35. ♖f1+, and it's totally finished.

26. ♖dc7+ ♗xc7 27. ♗g8+ ♗f8 28. ♖xd6+ ♖e7 29. ♗h1 ♖f5 30.exf5 Black resigned.

## SI 9.10

□ Bryson

■ Pereira, Alvaro

Correspondence game 1989

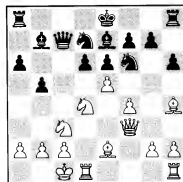
1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♖f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 h6 8. ♗b5 ♖e7 9. ♗f3 ♗c7 10.0-0-0 ♖bd7 11.♗e2 b5

For this variation, too, please consult the books. 1... ♗b8 is also played here. After the text White can unleash great complications.

12.e5

The alternative is 12. ♗xf6 ♖xf6 13.e5 ♗b7, and White has a choice between 14. ♗g3 and 14.exf6.

12... ♗b7



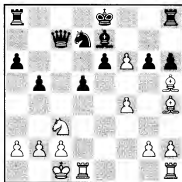
### 13. exf6!?

**13. exf6!?** **14. exf3 d5**  
 After 14...c8?! 15. fxe7 White is better; he has three pieces for the queen. Another possibility, however, is 14...xf6 15. exf6 c8: 16. xg7 h7 17. sh5! w c5! 18. f5 xg7 19. exf6 w c3+ 20. sb1 e5! (less good is 20...g8?!; after 21. h1 f2 22. e4 xxc2+ 23. a1 White has a strong attack) 21. xg7+ f8 22. f6 b4 23. d4 (after 23. d5, 23...w e4 is awkward) 23...e4 24. f5 w e5 25. g4 (things are looking good for White, but Black can escape with perpetual check) 25...wb2+! 26. xxb2 a3+ 27. a1 e2+ 28. sb1 a3+, draw. Euwe-Tal, played over the phone in 1961.

### 15. exf6!

15. fxe7? is bad in view of 15...wf4+. Better is 15. fxf7 g8 16. xxd5, e.g. 16...sh4?! (16...c8! should be stronger) 17. xxa8 f6 18. f5 wf4+ 19. sb1 exd4 20. e2 wxf5 21. exd4 wh5 22. f3, with good play for White. Preinfalk-Keller, correspondence game 1972.

### 15...fxe6 16. sh5+ g6!



After 16...d8?! 17. fxe7+ c8, 18. g3!?, Pereira, looks good for White.

**17. xg6+ f8 18. fxe7+ g7 19. g3 b4**  
 19...xg6? is impossible, of course, in view of 20. f5+.

20...xc5?! 21. e2 is good for White, e.g. 21...w c3+ 22. d2, followed by 23. e1 or 23. f4.

### 21. fxe6! bxc3

21...e6 22. d3 w c6 is also worth considering. After both 23. e2 wxe6 24. h1 wxe7 25. d4 and 23. h1 bxc3 24. e5 cxb2+ 25. xxb2 wxe6 26. d1 w b6 White may be slightly better, but it is not clear.

### 22. exd7 wxa2

22...xg6 may also be playable, e.g. 23. e5 cxb2+ 24. xxb2 wf4+ 25. d2 h8 26. exd8 wxd8, and the endgame is not bad for Black.

**23. e5+!**  
 23. bxc3? wa3+ 24. d2 wxe7 is good for Black.

**23...xg6 24. xxc3 wa1+ 25. d2 wa4 26. exh8**

There is no better move, but now Black keeps the perpetual.

**26...wf4+**  
 Or 26...wxd7 27. d3 wxe7 28. c1, with a roughly equal ending.  
**27. d3 w c4+ 28. d2 wf4+ 29. c3 wc4+ 30. d2 wf4+**  
 Draw.

SI 10.12

- Unzicker
- Fischer

Varna Olympiad 1962

**1. e4 c5 2. d3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. exd4 e6 5. e3 a6 6. e2**

A less sharp way to play against the Najdorf than 6...e5.

**6...e5 7. d3 b3 e6 8. 0-0 e7 9. f4 w c7 10. f5 e c4 11. a4 e7 12. e3**

In later years, 12. e5 was played a few times, with reasonable results. An example is Oll-Kasparov, Moscow Olympiad 1994: 12...0-0 13. sh1 f8 14. a5 h6 15. shf6 exf6

16. xxc4 wxc4 17. wf3 f8 18. d2 (afterwards Oll indicated 18. a4 w c6 19. g4, when he assesses White as slightly better) 18...wb4 19. h1 f8 20. a4 w c5 21. h1, with an approximately equal position.

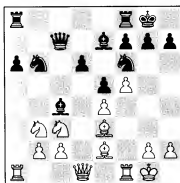
### 12...0-0 13. a5

All this has been in the theory books for years. The important thing is that Black can meet 13. g4 with 13...d5!

### 13...b5!?

13...f8 has also been played.

### 14. axb6 e.p. wxb6



### 15. xxb6!?

Better is 15. sh1!, postponing the swap until after 15...f8 (15...xe2 16. wxe2 c4 can be met strongly by 17. d3 g5): 16. xxb6 wxb6 17. c4 dxc4 18. w e2 c8 19. a2, followed by 20. f1, and White is not bad.

### 15...wxb6+ 16. sh1 sb5!

This little move yields Black a fine position. If White does not capture on b5, Black plays

17...c6!, followed by a6-a5-a4. The e4 pawn is a weak spot in the white position.

### 17...xb5

After 17...xb5 axb5 18. wd3 a4!? Black's position is also preferable.

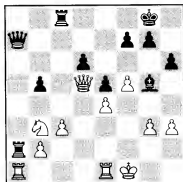
**17...axb5 18. d5 exd5 19. wxd5 a4! 20. c3 wa6! 21. h3**

In Lal-Fischer, Willemstad Candidates' tournament 1962, played some months earlier, Black also had good play after 21. d1 c8.

### 21...c8 22. fe1 h6 23. gh2 g5 24. g3?

24. d1 can be met by 24...b4! 25. w d6 wxd6 26. dxd6 bxc3 27. bxc3 xxc3, and Black keeps calling the shots. But the text fatally weakens the white position by suddenly giving Black tactical possibilities.

**24...wa7! 25. g2 a2 26. f1**  
 And suddenly it's all over! 26...xa2 wxa2 27. e2 xxc3 is equally hopeless.



### 26...xc3

White resigned.

SI 11.7

- Kuzmin, Gennady
- Groszpetter

Kusadasi 1990

**1. e4 c5 2. d3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. exd4 e6 5. e3 a6 6. e2 e5 7. d3 e7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. sh1**

White has many other options here, e.g. 9. a4 and 9. e3.

### 9...b5

Black also has a wide choice: 9...b6, 9...e6, 9...c7, 9...c6, and a few more. See the books.

### 10...d5

10.a4 b4, and only then 11.♠d5 is an alternative.

**10...♠xd5 11.♗xd5 ♚a7 12.♙e3 ♖e6 13.♗d1 ♠d7**

After 13...♚b7 14.♙c1 ♚c6 15.c4 ♘a5! 16.♙xa5 ♗xa5 17.cxb5 axb5 18.a3 ♗a8! 19.♙d3 ♠d8 things were roughly equal in Short-Kasparov, Novgorod 1994, but 14.a4! or 14.♗e1! ♚c6 15.♠d1 are possible improvements for White.

**14.a4! b4**

14...bxa4 15.♚xa4 ♙g5!? is probably not a bad idea. Black has counterplay: 16.♙xg5 ♗g5 17.♗c1 ♗xc1 18.♙xc1 ♠c8 19.c3 ♚b7 20.♠d3 ♙c4 21.♚b1 ♠cc7 22.♚c1 ♙b5, and a draw, Wahls-Arnason, Groningen 1990.

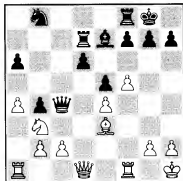
**15.f4 ♗c7?!**

Black allows the advance f4-f5. But 15...exf4 16.♙xf4 d5 17.e5 or 15...d5 16.♚c5 ♙xc5 17.♙xc5 dxe4 18.♗e1 doesn't look convincing either!

**16.f5 ♙c4?!**

Now Black is hit by a kingside attack. Better, although still not enough, is 16...♙xb3 17.cxb3.

**17.♙xc4 ♗xc4**



**18.f6! ♙xf6 19.♗xf6! gxf6 20.♗g4+ ♚h8 21.♗h4! ♖e6**

The only way to cover f6.

**22.♠d4!**

Great!

**22...♗e7**

22...exd4 is met by 23.♙xd4 ♚g8 24.♙xf6+ ♙g7 25.♗g5, and Black is helpless.

**23.♙f5 ♗e6 24.f1**

Now the main threat is ♠f1-h3-h3, and mate.

**24...d5 25.♠g7! ♗e7**

Or 25...♚g7 26.♙h6+ ♚h8 27.♙xf8.

**26.♙c5!**

Another good one!

**26...♗xc5 27.♙h5**

Black resigned; he is totally lost: 27...♠d6 28.♙xf6 ♙xf6 29.♗xf6+ ♚g8 30.f3.

## SI 12.4

□ **Wahls**

■ **Vera**

Cienfuegos 1996

**1.e4 c5 2.♚f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♚f6 5.♚c3 a6 6.f4 ♗c7 7.♗f3 g6 8.♙e3 b5 9.a3**

White can also allow ...b4, e.g. 9.♙d3 ♚b7 10.g4 b4 11.♚cc2 ♙g7 12.0-0-0 ♚bd7, with a difficult position and roughly equal chances, Leko-Van Wely, Tilburg 1997.

**9...♚bd7 10.g4 ♚c5 11.g5 ♚fxe4!**

The start of interesting complications.

**12.♚xe4**

Black meets 12.♙d3 with 12...♚xc3 13.♗xa8 ♗b7!; 14.♗xb7 ♙xb7 15.0-0 d5, and Black is fine.

**12...♚xe4 13.♗xe4 ♚b7 14.♙xb5!**

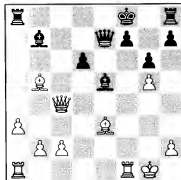
White has to think of something, otherwise he loses his ♠h1.

**14...axb5 15.♙d4 e5! 16.fxe5**

16.♙xb5+?! ♚d8 17.fxe5 ♗a5+ 18.♙d2 ♗xb5 19.exd6 ♙g7! 20.♗xg7 ♚e8+ and 21...♙xh1 is good for Black, Vera.

**16...♙g7! 17.♙xb5+ ♚f8 18.0-0 ♙xe5 19.♗c4 ♖e7**

A critical moment in the game.



**20.c3**

Here 20.♗xf7+!? was an option: 20...♗xf7 21.♠f3 ♚f3 22.♗xf7+ ♚xf7 23.♙xf3+ ♚c7, with an unclear position.

20.♠f2!? was also worth looking at: 20...♙xb2 21.♠af1 f5 22.♙xf5+! gx f5 23.♙xf5+ ♚g7 24.♙d4+ ♙xd4+ 25.♗xd4+ ♚g8 26.♙c4+ d5 27.♙xd5+ ♙xd5 28.♗d5+ ♚g7 29.♗d4+ ♚g8 30.♗d5+, with perpetual check, according to Vera's analysis.

**20...♚c8 21.♗e2?!**

Vera gave this move a big question mark, but the real loser comes a move later. According to Vera, 21.♗g4! was correct, e.g. 21...h6 (21...♙xc3!? at once may be stronger) 22.h4 ♙xc3 23.♙d4 ♙xd4+ 24.♙d4 ♙h7 25.♠a1, which doesn't look bad for White.

**21...h6! 22.gxh6?**

Now the end is very near. Also bad is 22.h4 ♗c6! 23.♙f4 hxg5 24.♙g5 ♗h3, and Black wins; or 22.♙c4? ♙xh2+! 23.♙xh2 hxg5+ 24.♙g3 ♗e5+ 25.♙f4 ♚h3+! 26.♙xh3 ♗h8+, and mate!

22.♠f2 hxg5 23.♙d4, indicated by Bönsch, would still have allowed White to continue the fight, although 23...g4 24.♙e5 ♗xe5 25.♗xc5 dxe5 26.♠d2 g3 is better for Black.

**22...♙xh2+! 23.♙xh2**

Or 23.♙xh2 ♗h4+ 24.♙g1 ♗g3+, and mate.

**23...♗xe3+ 24.♠f2 ♙xh6**

White resigned.

## SI 12.6

□ **Nunn**

■ **Cserna**

Lugano 1984

**1.e4 c5 2.♚f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♚f6 5.♚c3 a6 6.f4 ♗c7**

The books give 6...e5 7.♚f3 ♚bd7 as the main line here.

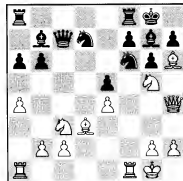
**7.♙d3 g6 8.0-0 ♙g7 9.♚f3 ♚bd7 10.♗e1 e5**

To prevent the push 11.e5. But Black can probably afford to just allow it, e.g. 10...b5 11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 ♚g4 13.e6 fxe6 14.♗h4 ♚de5 15.♙xe5 ♙xe5 16.♙e4 ♙b7, with an approximately equal position, Almasi-Lalic, Pula 1996.

**11.a4 b6 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.♗h4 ♚b7**

With 13...h6 Black now can prevent the coming bishop sortie, but it is not an attractive move: he will have trouble castling kingside and White simply plays 14.♙c3, followed by ♚d2-c4.

**14.♙h6 0-0 15.♚g5!**



**15...♠fc8**

The position after 15.♚g5! has been seen in several games. The important thing is that Black cannot relieve the pressure on his king with 15...♚h5?, as this is met by 16.♙xg7 ♚xg7 17.♙xf7+! ♙xf7 18.♙e6+, winning the

queen. 15...♖ae8 16.g4! and 15...♖d6 16.♖ad1 are not satisfactory for Black either. The idea behind the text is 16...♖c5+ 17.♖h1 ♖f8, but Black never gets around to it.

**16.♖h1 ♖d6 17.♗xg7 ♗xg7 18.♗xf7!** This is how White exploits the weakness of f7. The sacrifice is undoubtedly correct: White gets three pawns for the piece and the black king is denied a safe haven.

**18...♗xf7 19.♗xh7+ ♖e6 20.♖xg6** According to Nunn, 20...♖xf6+!? ♗xf6 21.♗xb7 was another possibility.

**20...♖e7 21.♖ad1! ♖h7 22.♖g3 ♖e7** 22...♗g8 is awkward in view of 23.♗c4+ ♖e7 24.♗xg8 ♖xg8 25.♖d3.

**23.♗d5+!**  
23.♖f5!? ♖e5 is less clear.  
**23...♗xd5 24.exd5**



#### 24...♖h6?

Now Black has sealed his own fate. 24...♖g8? is also bad: 25.♖xf6! ♗xf6 26.♖h4+ ♗f7 27.♖f1+ ♖e8 28.d6 ♖g7 29.♗g6+, and mate. Relatively best was 24...e4!?, but with 25.♖de1 ♗g8 26.♖c7! ♖g6 27.g3 ♖ac8 28.d6+ ♖e6 29.♖b7! White keeps a strong attack going, again according to Nunn.

**25.d6+ ♖d8 26.♖f5 ♖a7 27.♗xd7 ♖xd7** Or 27...♗d7 28.♖xe5.  
**28.♖xf6!**  
Black resigned.

#### SI 13.2

- Zaitsev
- Dementiev

Riga 1970

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗e3 b5 8.♗b3 ♖c7**

Going for the pawn with 8...b4?! 9.♗e4 ♗xe4? is very risky: 10.♗c6! ♗f6 11.♗b6 ♗b7 12.♗xa8 ♗xa8 13.♗xe6, and the black king is stuck in the centre. Playable, however, are 8...♗e7 and 8...♗b7.

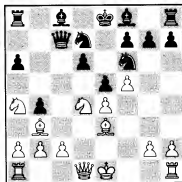
#### 9.f4 b4?!

Black keeps eyeing pawn e4. But 9...♗e7 and completing his development was better.

#### 10.♗a4 ♗b7

Again, taking on e4 is not advisable: 10...♗xe4?! 11.f5 e5 12.♗f3, with the threat of 13.♗e4.

#### 11.f5 e5



#### 12.♗e6!

A thematic sacrifice in this line. See also the game Kalegin-Dvoiris, SI 13.12.

#### 12...fxe6 13.fxe6 ♗c5

13...♗b8 is met by 14.♗b6 ♗b7 15.♗a4+.

#### 14.♗xc5 dxc5 15.0-0 c4?!

This makes it easier for White to demonstrate the correctness of his piece sacrifice. But other moves also yield him good chances, e.g.

15...♗c7 16.♗a4+ ♗f8 17.♖xf6+ ♗xf6 18.♖d5 ♗b7 19.♖c4! ♖c8 20.♖d1, or 15...♗d6 16.♗g5 ♖f8 17.♗xf6 gxf6 18.♖h5+ ♗d8 19.♖ad1.

#### 16.♖xf6! gxf6

Or 16...cxb3 17.♖h5+ g6 18.♗g6 hxg6 19.♖xg6+ ♖e7 20.♖d1, and mate.

#### 17.♖h5+ ♖e7 18.♖f7+ ♖d6 19.e7!

19...♗e7 runs into 20.♖d5, mate.

#### 20.♖xc4

Black resigned.

#### SI 13.10

- Timotic
- Veron

Metz 2000

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 b5 8.♗g5!?**

The most common move is 8.0-0. The text is an interesting sub-variation.

#### 8...♗e7 9.♖f3 ♖c7

9...♖b6 is a good alternative.

#### 10.0-0

Black can meet 10.♗xf6?! ♗xf6 11.e5 effectively with 11...♗xe5! (less good is 11...♗b7?!, as White then has the strong 12.♖d5!) 12.♖xa8 ♗xd4 13.♖f3 ♗b7, and Black has good play for the exchange.

#### 10...0-0?!

Stronger is 10...♗b7!, with a complicated position with roughly equal chances after, for instance, 11.♖he1 0-0 12.♖h3 ♗c5.

#### 11.e5! ♗b7

11...dxc5 is met by 12.♗xf6 ♗xf6 (12...exd4 13.♗xe7 ♖xe7 14.♖xa8 ♗b7 15.♗d5! exd5 16.♖a7 yields too little compensation for the exchange) 13.♗xe6 ♗xe6 14.♖xa8 b4, and now instead of 15.♗e4? ♗e7 16.♗a4? ♖b6! 0-1 Varavin-Karjakin, Alushta 2002, correct is 15.♗e4 and if 15...♗e7 16.♖e4.

#### 12.exf6! ♗xf3 13.fxe7 ♗xd1?

This loses at once. His only move was 13...♖e8; it is true that White then plays 14.♗xf3, and should be better with three pieces for the queen, but at least Black can still put up a lot of resistance, as in the game Meszaros-Vajda, Hungary 1998: 14...d5 15.♗d4 h6 16.♗e3 ♖xe7 17.f4 ♗d7 18.g4 ♖ac8 19.h4, and White created chances for himself.



#### 14.♗xe6!

Black resigned. And it's easy to see that this hammerblow left him little choice. In an earlier game between two strong masters (later grandmasters!) this move was overlooked: 14.exf8 ♖+? ♗xf8 15.♖xd1 d5 and the game Yudasin-Novikov, Kuibyshev 1986 was eventually drawn!

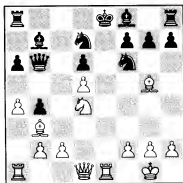
#### SI 13.12

- Adams
- Sadler

Dublin 1993

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 b5 8.0-0 ♗b7 9.♖e1 ♗bd7 10.♗g5 ♖b6 11.a4 b4 12.♗d5!?**

A well-known knight sacrifice in the Sicilian. The results are often quite unclear, but White nearly always gets good attacking chances.  
**12...exd5 13.exd5+**



**13...e5**  
 After 13...e5, White continues 14.e6+! After 14...exd5 15.dxc6 Black has good chances. In the game Golubev-Mantovani, Biel 1992, Black played 14...e7, followed by an extraordinarily beautiful attacking spectacle: 15.a5 ♖b5 16.d4 ♗c5 17.e3 ♗xd5 18.c4 bxc3 e.p. 19.♞c1! ♗xa5 20.♞c3+ ♔c5?! (20...♗b7 offered more chances of survival) 21.♗xd5 ♗xd5 22.♗f3! ♔xc3 23.♗c6+ ♗b8 24.bxc3! ♗a7 25.♞b1 ♞b8 26.♗xc5+! ♗b6 (26...dxc5 27.e6+, and mate) 27.e6+ ♗a8 28.♞xb6, and Black resigned. Golubev has analysed this game deeply for both the Informator and NIC Yearbook 26, but we don't have the space to go into his analyses here.

**14.a5 ♗c5 15.e3**  
 14.a5 is also good, but the text generates all kinds of additional threats.

**15...♗c8**  
 Other moves are no better. 15...e7 loses the queen after 16.e6 ♗b5 17.e5 dxe5 18.♗a4, as does 15...e5 16.♗a4+ ♗d8 17.e6+ 15...e5 16.♗a4+ ♗d7 17.e6 ♗c8 18.♗xf8 gives White a large advantage.

**16.♗a4+ ♗e7**  
 16...e7 is also met by 17.f4, e.g. 17...e6 18.f5 e7 19.♗d4 ♗d8 20.♞xe7 ♔xe7 21.♗xd6, winning, or 17...e5 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.f4 e5 20.♞e5+ e6 21.♗h1 ♗xd4 22.♗xd4 0-0 23.♞xe6 fxe6 24.♗d7 ♞xf4 25.♗xf4 ♗xd7 26.♗xb4, with a better endgame. Thus Adams' analysis.

**17.f4 ♔xd5 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.♗h5! f6 20.f2**  
 Now White simply threatens to continue with 21.♞a1 or 21.♗g3. The black king is in a most unfortunate position.

**20...g6**  
 Or 20...d6 21.♗f7, or 20...e4 21.♞xc5+! fxe2 22.♗xe5+, winning.

**21.♞e5+! ♗f7**  
 There is nothing better: 21...fxe5 22.♗xe5+ ♗f7 23.♗xh8, or 21...d6 22.♗g3! gxf5 23.♞e6+, with a nice mate: 23...♗c5 24.♗b3+ ♗c4 25.♞e4.

**22.♗f3 ♔c7 23.♗b3+ ♗g7 24.f5+!**  
 Another knight sac for good measure. It is all over.

**24...gxf5 25.♗g3+ ♗f7 26.♗b3+ ♔d5 27.♗xd5**  
 Black resigned.

SI 13.12

□ Kalgin  
 ■ Dvoiris

Soviet Union 1988

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 b5**  
 The same ambitious move as in the previous game. Other options are 7...e7 or 7...e6 to develop his pieces.

**8.0-0 b4**  
 For 8...b7, see the game Adams-Sadler. The safest possibility should be 8...e7, followed soon by castling kingside.

**9.♗a4 d7**  
 9...e4?! is very dangerous in view of 10.f4, followed by 11.f5, with good attacking chances; or 10.♞e1 d5 11.♗f4.

**10.f4 ♔c6**  
 10...e4? is still impossible, of course, in view of 11.f5.

**11.f5! e5**  
 In their annotations to the game the players say that 11...e4 12.♗d4 e5 13.♗xb4 d5 14.♗e1 dxe4 15.♗e3 is good for White.

**12.♗e6!?**  
 The same sacrifice as in Zaitsev-Dementiev, but now Black has better defensive possibilities because of the knight on c6.

**12...fxe6 13.fxe6 ♗c8 14.♗g5 e7**  
 After 14...h5 15.♗xf6 gxf6 16.♗d5 ♗b7 f7.c3 Black has good compensation for his piece, according to Kalgin and Dvoiris.

**15.♗xf6 ♗xf6**



SI 13.14

□ Polgar, Sofia  
 ■ Winslow

New York 1987

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 b5 8.0-0 e7 9.♗f3 ♗b6 10.♗e3 ♗b7 11.♗g3 ♗d7?!**

Better moves are 11...e6 and 11...b4. 11...0-0 12.♗h6 e8, as in Kasparov-Gelfand (SI 13.15), has also been played.

**12.♔f5! exf5**  
 12...b4 is met by 13.♗xg7 ♗g8 14.♗xf6! ♗xf6 15.♔xd6+, and White wins back the queen with interest.

**13.♗xg7 ♗f8 14.♗g5 ♔xe4**

14...♔h5 15.♖h6 loses ♔h5, while after 14...♔g8 White can choose between 15.♗f7+ ♚f7 16.♖xg8+ ♚f8 17.♖xh7 and 15.♗e7 ♔e7 16.♔d5, in both cases with worrying consequences for Black.

**15.♗e7 ♔e7 16.♔d5+ ♔e8 17.♖a1**  
17.f3 is also strong, as 17...♖a7+ 18.♗h1 ♔e2+ is not possible in view of 19.♖x2 ♖x2 20.♖f6, and mate.

**17...♔c6**  
After 17...♔c6 18.♔f6+ ♔f6 (or 18...♔e7 19.♗e6 ♔e6 20.♔e4 fxe4 21.♖xf8) 19.♖e6+ it is curtains.

**18.♔f6+ ♔e7 19.♖g5! ♗e6?**  
The sad 19...♔d8 was the only option Black had left; after 20.♔xe4+ ♔c7 21.♔f6 White has a large advantage.

**20.♔xe4+ f6**  
Or 20...♔d7 21.♔f6+ ♔c7 22.♗e6 fxe6 23.♗e6, winning.

**21.♔xf6**  
And Black resigned in view of 21...♚xf6 22.♗e6+.

### Sl 13.15

□ Kasparov  
■ Gelfand

Linares 1993

**1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♔c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 b5 8.0-0 ♗e7 9.♖f3**

This move has been played in many games over the last 10 years. White threatens 10.e5, preventing Black from castling and gaining time for 10.♖g3 0-0 11.♗h6.

**9...♖c7**  
After 9...♗b7?!, 10.♗e6! fxe6 11.♔c6 is very annoying.

**10.♖g3 0-0**  
Black can also play 10...♔c6! here: 11.♔xc6 ♖xc6 12.♗e1 (12.♖xg7?! can't be good: 12...♗g8 13.♖h6 ♔xe4, and Black has all the

chances) 12...♗b7, with roughly equal play. It's all to be found in the theory books.

**11.♗h6 ♔e8 12.♖ad1**  
Here, too, all kinds of different moves have been tried, such as 12.a3 and 12.♗h1. Again, I have to refer the reader to the books.

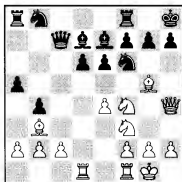
**12...♔d7 13.♔f3!?**  
And here 13.a3 and 13.f4 are alternatives. Again: see the books!

**13...b4**  
Afterwards it was discovered that Black can maybe play 13...♔c6; but after 14.♗f4 ♖d8 15.e5! White has quite good play.

**14.♔e2 a5 15.♔f4! ♗h8**  
This is forced. After 15...a4? 16.♗xg7! ♔xg7 17.♔h5 Black might as well resign.

**16.♗g5 ♔f6**  
16...f6? is met by 17.♗e6, e.g. 17...fxg5 18.♔g6+, and mate. And after 16...♗x5 17.♔x5 a4 18.♗e6 ♗e6 (18...fxe6? is not good in view of 19.♔g6+! ♔g8 20.♔e7+ ♔h8 21.♔xh7!, winning) 19.♔xe6 fxe6 20.♔xe6 ♖f7 21.♔xf8 ♖xf8 22.e5 White is better.

**17.♖h4!**  
White's kingside action reaches its climax!



**17...♗b5?**  
This loses by force. After 17...a4 the game continues 18.♔h5 axb3 19.♔xf6! ♗xf6 (19...h6 20.♗xh6! ♗xf6 21.♔g5! ♗xg5

22.♔xg7++! ♔xg7 23.♖xg5+ ♔h7 24.♖d3 e5 25.♗g3, and it's over) 20.♗xf6 gxf6 21.♖x6+ ♔g8 22.♔g5! ♗b5 (or 22...♔c8 23.♖d3 ♖d8 24.♖h6) 23.♖h6 f6 24.♖xf8+ ♔x8 25.♔e6+ ♔e7 26.♔xc7, and White wins. Also good for White is 17...♔c6 18.♔h5 ♔xh5 19.♗e7 ♔xe7 20.♖xe7 ♖ac8 (20...♖e8 is no stronger: 21.♖xd6 ♖xd6 22.♖x6 ♗b5 23.♗e1, as White meets 23...a4 with the tricky 24.♗d5 exd5 25.♗x5, winning back his piece and staying a pawn up) 21.♖xd6 ♗c6 22.♖xc7 ♖c7 23.♗e1 ♔f6 24.♖d4. 17...♗d8 is probably Black's best chance; after 18.♔d4 ♗e8 the position is unclear, e.g. 19.♔h5 ♔xh5 20.♖xh5 ♗x5 21.♖xg5 a4 22.♔b5 ♖a5 23.♗xa4 ♗xa4 24.♔x6 ♔g8 25.♔xe8 ♗xe8 26.♖d8 ♔c6 27.♗xa8 ♖xa8 28.♖a1 ♖a7. Thus Nikitin.

**18.♔d4! ♗e8**  
After 18...♗xf1 19.♔xe6! fxe6 20.♗e6 it's curtains, e.g. 20...g6 (or 20...h6 21.♗xh6 ♔g8 22.♔g6+ ♔h7 23.♔xf8+ ♗xf8 24.♗f5+ ♔h8 25.♗xg7+ ♔xg7 26.♖h7+) 21.♔xg6+ ♔g7 22.♖h6, mate.

**19.♔xe6! fxe6 20.♔xe6 ♖a7 21.e5! dx5 22.♔xf8 ♗xf8 23.♔xf6 gxf6 24.♖d8! ♔d7 25.♖g4!**  
Black resigned in view of 25...♗g7 26.♗e6.

### Sl 14.1

□ Handke  
■ Murdzia

Hamburg 2002

**1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♔c3 a6 6.♗g1**

A somewhat bizarre move, probably mainly meant to sidestep the great theoretical complexes of the Najdorf.

**6...♔c6**  
A logical reply, but the moves 6...g6, 6...e6, 6...c5 and 6...b5 have been played as well. Before you know it, you'll be able to write an en-

tire book on 6.♗g1!

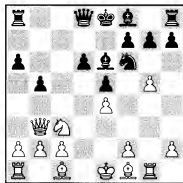
**7.g4 ♔xd4**  
Here 7...e6 8.g5 ♔d7 has been played a few times; otherwise, 7...d5 may be worth looking into.

**8.♖xd4 e5**  
Bad is 8...♗xg4? 9.♗xg4! ♔xg4 10.♖a4+ ♖d7 (10...b5 11.♔xb5) 11.♗b5, and 8...♔g4?! runs into 9.♔d5! ♔e5 10.♖c3! ♔c6 11.♗g7!. But 8...e6 is a playable move.

**9.♖a4+**  
Zviagintsev-Ivanchuk, Elista 1998, saw 9.♖d1 ♗e6 10.g5 ♔d7 11.♖f3, with good play for White. The text is rather over-ambitious.

**9...♗d7 10.♖b3 b5**  
With 10...♗c6!, which is good and safe, Black can avoid the white combination that now follows.

**11.g5 ♗e6**  
11...♔g8 12.♔d5 is good for White, of course.



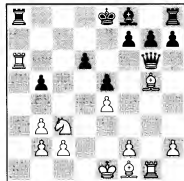
**12.gxf6!?**  
A queen sacrifice! It was more or less forced really, as 12.♔d5 ♔xe4 13.♗g2 ♔c5 is probably good for Black.

**12...♔xb3 13.axb3 ♖xf6!**  
Better is 13...gxf6, when White can continue 14.♗xa6 ♗xa6 15.♗xb5+ ♔e7 16.♔d5+ ♔e6 17.♗xa6, with attacking chances after both 17...♗e7 18.♗f1 ♔d7 19.♗h3+ ♔c6 20.♗g3

and 17...f5!? 18.♁c4 fxe4 19.♁g5 ♖a5+ 20.♁e2. Knight and bishop for the queen isn't great compensation by itself, but the white pieces get extremely active. White can also try 14.♔d5!?, when a possible continuation is 14...♖c8 15.c3!? ♁e7 16.♔b6 ♖c6 17.♔xa8 ♔d8 18.♁c3!? ♖xa8 19.♁xb5 ♖xc4 20.♁xa6. Now Black should be able to make perpetual check and draw 20...♖b1+ 21.♁e2 ♖g1 22.♁b6+ ♔c8 23.♁c6 ♖g4+ 24.♁e1 ♖g1+.

#### 14...♁g5 ♖g6?

Now White wins quickly. Black had probably overlooked the threatened two-bishop mate. More stubborn was 14...♖e6, when 15.♁xb5+ axb5 16.♁xa8+ ♔d7 17.♔d5 is undoubtedly good for White, but not yet clearly winning. The same goes for 15.♔d5 ♔d7 16.♔b6+ (16.♁xb5+ ♔c8) 16...♔c6 17.♔xa8 ♖c8. 15.♁xa6!



#### 15...♁b8

The big point is 15...♁a6 16.♁xb5+, and the bishops deliver mate!

#### 16.♁a6!

The additional point; 16...♁xa8 is also met by 17.♁xb5, and mate.

#### 17...f6 17.♁xb8+ ♔d7 18.♁xb5+ ♔c7 19.♁e8

Now the unfortunate queen is lost as well! Black resigned.

### Sl 14.7

□ Skalik

■ Kempinski

Gdansk 1994

1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♔c3 a6 6.♁e3

In 1984 the Encyclopaedia still buried this move in an unimportant sub-variation. It has gained enormous popularity since.

#### 6...♔g4

This reply, like the moves that follow it, is obvious enough, but Black does compromise his position slightly.

7.♁g5 h6 8.♁h4 g5 9.♁g3 ♁g7

10.♖d2

For 10.♁e2, see the game Tirard-Wu Wenjin.

10...♔e6

10...h5 is met by 11.h4.

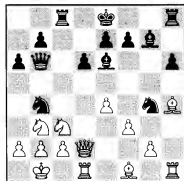
11.♔b3 ♁e6 12.h4

For the other move, 12.f3, see the game Perez-Gongora.

12...gxf4

12...♁g8 has also been played.

13.♁xh4 ♔c8 14.0-0 ♔b4 15.♔b1 ♖b6! 16.f3



#### 16...♔e3!

Extremely interesting but unfortunately incorrect is 16...a5? 17.fxg4 ♔xc3 18.bxc3

♔xa2. See: 19.♁f2! ♖c6 (19...♔xc3+ is simply met by 20.♁xc3) 20.♔xa2 a4 (now White could meet 20...♁xc3 with 21.♁b5!) 21.♁d4! axb3+ 22.cxb3 ♖a4+ 23.♔b2 ♖xb3+ 24.♔c1 ♔xd4 25.♖xd4, and Black's action faltered, Shirov-Oll, Wijk aan Zee 1993.

17.♔f2 ♔xc3!

17...♔xf1 18.♔xf1 is good for White.

18.bxc3 ♔xd1!

The point of the previous moves.

19.♔xb6 ♔xc3+ 20.♔c1

White should avoid the g7-a1 diagonal, for obvious reasons.

20...♔bxa2+ 21.♔b2

But now he has no choice!

21...♔xe4+ 22.♖d4

After 22.♁d4? ♔xd2 23.♁xg7 ♖g8 Black remains two pawns up.

22...♔xd4+ 23.♁xd4 ♔g3 24.♁xh8

24.♖g1 ♖g8 25.♔xa2 ♔xf1 26.♔xf1 ♔xg2 is certainly not stronger.

24...♔xh1 25.♔xa2 f6 26.♁g7 ♔g3

27.♔d3 ♔f5 28.♁xf5

Here a draw was agreed. After 28...♁xf5 29.♔b2 h5 the endgame is not totally clear, but a draw looks like the most logical result. All of this, by the way, is an analysis by Shirov, published after his game against Oll!

### Sl 14.7

□ Perez

■ Gongora

Santa Clara 1998

1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♔c3 a6 6.♁e3 ♔g4 7.♁g5 h6

8.♔h4 g5 9.♁g3 ♁g7 10.♖d2 ♔c6

11.♔b3 ♁e6 12.f3 ♔ge5 13.♁f2 b5

14.♔d5 ♔b8 15.♔d4

All of this can be found in the theory books.

15...♔xd5

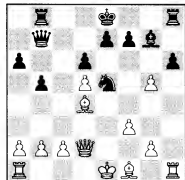
Playable alternatives are 15...♖d7 and

15...♔xd4 16.♁xd4 f5!?

16.exd5 ♔xd4 17.♁xd4 ♖c7 18.h4

After 18.0-0 Black also plays 18...♖b7!, when 19.♁c3? is not good in view of the trick 19...♔c4 20.♁xc4 ♁xb2+! 21.♔xb2 bxc4+, which means that White must go 19.♁xc5, with roughly equal play.

18...♖b7! 19.hxg5



#### 19...hxg5

Suspect is 19...♖xd5!?! 20.gxh6, e.g. 20...♁f6 (or 20...♔xf3+ 21.gxf3 ♁xd4 22.0-0-0, or 20...♔xd4 21.hxg7 ♖xd2+ 22.♔xd2) 21.c3 ♁g5!?! (well found but not good; but 21...♖e6 22.♔d1 also favours White) 22.♖xg5 ♔xf3+ 23.gxf3 ♖xg5 24.♁xh8 f6 25.♁g7 ♔f7 26.♔d1, and with two bishops and a rook for the queen White had a winning endgame, Ye Jiangchuan-Xu Jun, Beijing 1993.

20.♁xh8+ ♁xh8 21.♖xg5 ♁f6!

The attempt 21...♔xf3+? 22.gxf3 ♁xd4 fails to 23.♖g8+ ♔d7 24.♖g4+, but 21...♖xd5 at once is possible: 22.♖g8+ ♔d7 23.♖xb8 ♖xd4 24.♖b7+ ♔d8 (unclear is 24...♔e6 25.♖e4 ♖xb2 26.♔d1; it's probably good for White) 25.♖b8+, with perpetual check.

22.♖g3

The strongest move, as 22.♖d2! ♖xd5 23.♁c3 ♁h4+ 24.♔d1 ♖e6 is slightly unpleasant for White.



### 22...xd5 23.xe5

Or 23. ♖g8+ ♔d7 24. ♖xb8 ♖xd4 25. ♖b7+ ♔e6 (after 25... ♔d8 26. ♖b8+ White has perpetual check) 26. ♖c8+ ♔d7 27. c3 ♔h4+ 28. ♔e2 ♖f2+ 29. ♔d3 ♖xb2 30. ♔d1 ♖xa2 31. g3 ♖d5+ 32. ♔c2 ♖a2+, with a perpetual for Black.

### 23...xe5

Judging by another game between the same opponents (Cienfuegos 1998!), 23... ♖xe5+ 24. ♖xe5 ♔e5 25.0-0-0 leads to equality.

### 24. ♖g8+ ♔d7 25. ♖xb8 ♔g3+ 26. ♔e2 ♖c4+ 27. ♔d2

White has to allow perpetual check; 27. ♔c3? is impossible in view of 27... ♔f4+ 28. ♔f2 ♖d4+ 29. ♔c1 ♖d2 mate!

### 27...♔f4+ 28. ♔e1

Draw.

SI 14.7

□ Tirard

■ Wu Wenjin

Medellin 1996

### 1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♔c3 a6 6.♔e3 ♔g4 7.♔g5 h6 8.♔h4 g5 9.♔g3 ♔g7 10.♔e2

For 10. ♖d2, see the two previous games.

### 10...♔e5

After 10...h5 White has a choice between 11.h4, 11.♔xg4 and 11.♔f5.

### 11.h4 ♔b6 12.♔b3 b5?!

With 12...g4!? or 12...gxh4!? Black can prevent the h-file from being opened.

### 13.hxg5 hxg5 14.♔xh8 ♔xh8 15.♖d2 ♔c4?!

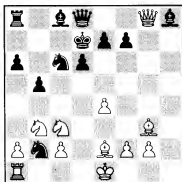
Very ambitious but quite suspect, as we will see. 15...e6 would be wiser.

### 16. ♖xg5! ♔xb2?

And this proves fatal. Slightly better was 16...♔b4, when White plays 17.♔f1!, and Black remains in trouble. 17...♔xb2?!, for in-

stance, is met strongly by 18.e5!, with the point of 18...♔xe5? (or 18...dxe5? 19.♔b1 ♔c4 20.♔xc4 bxc4 21.♔d1) 19.♔xe5 dxe5 20.♔xb5+! axb5 21.♖g8+, winning.

### 17. ♖g8+ ♔d7



### 18.♔c5+!

Black had obviously not seen this uppercut coming.

### 18...♔c7

18...dxc5 is met by 19.♔g4+ e6 20.♖xf7+ ♖c7 21.♔xe6+ ♔d8 22. ♖g8+ ♖e8 23.♔h4+ ♔e7 24.♔xe7+ ♔xe7 25.♔d5+ ♔d8 26. ♖g5+, and mate.

### 19.♔d5+ ♔b8 20. ♖xd8 ♔xd8 21.♔xe7 ♔c5+ 22.cxd3 ♔xa1 23.♔xd6+ ♔a7 24.e5!

Blocking in Black's a1 bishop, while at the same time threatening 25.f3.

### 24...♔b7 25.♔d2! ♔xg2

25...♔d4 is met by 26.♔xb7 ♔xb7 27.♔c6+, while 25...♔b2 runs into 26.♔c2 ♔a3 27.♔xb7.

### 26.♔b3 ♔b2 27.♔c2 ♔xe5 28.♔xe5

The complications have left White with a winning position. It is amusing to see how the white pieces will shortly start cornering the black king.

### 28...♔e6 29.♔h5 f6 30.♔c3 ♔f8 31.♔g4 ♔f4 32.♔d4+ ♔a8 33.f3 ♔f7 34.♔c5 ♔g7 35.♔d6 ♔h3 36.♔d7 ♔b7

### 37.♔a5+ ♔b6 38.♔d5+ ♔a7

Or 38...♔xa5 39.♔b4+ ♔a4 40.a3, and mate on the next move.

### 39.♔c8

Black resigned.

SI 14.8

□ Lutz

■ Ftacnik

German Bundesliga 2001

### 1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 4.f6 5.♔c3 a6 6.♔e3 e5 7.♔b3

The alternative is 7.♔f3; after 7...♔e7 8.♔c4 0-0 9.0-0 ♔e6 10.♔b3 White may be fractionally better.

### 7...♔e6 8.f3 h5

Interesting! Black prevents the white set-up with g4. It goes without saying that this weakens his pawn structure.

### 9. ♖d2 ♔bd7 10.0-0 ♔c8 11.♔b1 ♔e7 12.♔d3

12.♔d5 ♔xd5 13.exd5 ♔b6 14.♔xb6 ♖xb6 has also been played a few times here. The position is probably roughly equal.

### 12...b5 13.h3

In order to play 14.g4 after all.

### 13...h4

Except that Black prevents it. An example with 13...♖c7 is the game Morozevich-Sadulakov, Astana 2001: 14.g4 ♔b6 15.♔xb6 ♖xb6 16.g5 ♔d7 17.♔d5 ♔xd5! 18.exd5 g6 19.♔he1 ♖c7 20.h4 ♔b6 21.f4! exf4 22. ♖xf4 0-0 23.♔d4 ♔fe8 24.♔f5! ♔f8 25. ♔h6+ ♔xh6 26.gxh6 ♔h7 27. ♖f6 ♖xb6 28. ♔e6, and Black resigned.

### 14.f4

Then we'll do it this way!

### 14...♖c7 15.♔he1 ♔b6

After 15...exf4 16.♔xf4 ♔e5 17.♔d4 White is slightly better. According to the white player, 15...♖b7!? or 15...♔c4!? was an option.

### 16.♔xb6! ♖xb6 17.♔d5 ♖d8

Taking on d5 is risky: 17...♔xd5 18.exd5 ♔xd5 19.fxe5 looks good for White, while 17...♔xd5 18.exd5 ♔h5 (18...♔xd5? is bad in view of 19.♔f5) 19.♔a5 yields White the advantage: 19...exf4 20.♔c6 ♔xd5 21. ♖e2 f3 22. ♖xf3 ♔g5 23. ♖xd5! ♔xd5 24. ♔xe7 ♔e5 25. ♔xc8 ♔c7 26. ♖xe5+ dxe5 27. ♔d6+. Thus the analysis of the black player. Maybe Lutz's suggestion of 17...♖b7!?, intending 18.♔a5 ♖a7, is a playable idea.

### 18.c3 0-0 19.♔c2 ♔e8!?

Taking on d5 is not possible, as this opens the c2-h7 diagonal. According to Lutz, Black could have played 19...♔h5, e.g. 20.♔xe7+ ♖xe7 21. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 22. ♔xd6 ♔xf4 23. ♔g1 ♔d8 24. ♔xa6 ♔d7, and Black's strong ♔f4 compensates him for the pawn.

### 20.♔xf6+!?

This is stronger than 20.♔xe7+ ♔xe7 21. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 22. ♔xd6 exf4 23. ♔xa6 ♔xb3 24.axb3 ♔c5, followed by ♔g5, with counterplay for Black.

### 20...♔f6 21.f5! ♔xb3?

Now Black is strategically lost. The rest is easy to understand. According to Lutz, 21...♔d7!? 22. ♖xd6 ♔c6 was a better idea, and it's true that Black may have some counterplay for the pawn.

### 22.♔xb3 ♖a5 23.♔g1!

White still isn't interested in the d6 pawn!

### 23...♔ed8 24.g4 hxg3 e.p. 25. ♔xg3 ♔b8



**26.h4! ♖b6**

26...♙xh4 is met by 27.♚h3 ♖f6 28.♗d5 ♚c7 29.♚h8+, and mate, while after 26...d5 27.♙xg7 ♙xh4 28.♚xg7! ♙xg7 (28...♙x5 29.♙xf7+) 29.♚g1+, and it's curtains.

**27.h5 ♖c6 28.♙d5 ♗d7 29.♚d1 ♚c5**

29...♙e7 doesn't help either: 30.♚xg7! ♙xg7 31.♙xg7 ♙f8 32.♗g5+ ♙e8 33.h6.

**30.h6 gxh6 31.♙xh6+ ♙e7 32.♗xf6+**

An attractive final combination!

**32...♙x6 33.♚g6+ ♙xg6 34.♙xg6+ ♙e7 35.f6+**

Black resigned in view of 35...♙f8 36.♚g8, mate.

SI 14.8

□ Gonzales

■ Hmadi

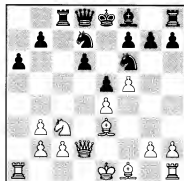
Thessaloniki Olympiad 1984

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♖f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♙e3 e5 7.♗b3 ♙e6  
8.♗d2 ♗bd7 9.f4

For 9.f3, see the game Watson-Kuczynski.

**9...♚c8 10.f5 ♙xb3!**

After 10...♙c4?! 11.♙xc4 ♙xc4 12.♗d3 ♚c8 13.0-0-0 White has a slight advantage.

**11.♙xb3****11...d5! ? 12.exd5?!**

This gives Black good possibilities. Better was 12.♗xd5!? ♗xe4 13.♗c2 ♖h4+ 14.g3 ♗xg3 15.hxg3 ♖xh1 16.0-0-0 ♙e4 17.♙h3, an unclear exchange sacrifice played in Nikolenko-Odeev, Naberezhnie Chelni 1988. White certainly has chances.

**12...♙b4 13.♗d3**

Black was threatening 13...♗e4. 13.♙g5 h6 14.♙h4 ♗c5 15.♙d3 0-0 16.0-0 ♙xc3 17.bxc3 ♙xd5 18.♙xf6 ♗e4! is also good for Black.

**13...♗c5**

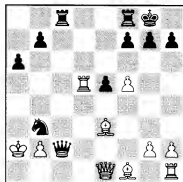
The other knight move, 13...♗b6, also looks good.

**14.♗c4 ♙xc3+**

14...♗d6! was also an option; the b4 bishop is untouchable, as 15.♖xb4? ♗d3+ loses the queen.

**15.♖xc3 0-0 16.0-0-0 ♗xd5 17.♗e1 ♗xb3+ 18.♙b1 ♗c7 19.♙xd5**

After 19.♙d3 ♗d4 20.♙xd4 exd4 Black has a winning advantage, while after 19.c4 ♙xc3 20.♖xc3, 20...♗d4 or 20...♗c5 also favours Black.

**19...♖xc2+ 20.♙a2****20...♗c1+?**

Black is happy with a draw, but he is mistaken. With 20...♗e4! he would have won: 21.♙xb3 ♙xd5+ 22.♙a3 b5, e.g. 23.♖b4 ♗d1 24.♙a2 ♚f8, with the threat of

25.♚d4! 26.♙xd4 ♚c1. After the text the players agreed a draw in view of 21.♙xc1 ♖a+ 22.♙b1 ♖c2+, and perpetual check.

SI 14.10

□ Watson

■ Kuczynski

German Bundesliga 1995

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♖f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♙e3 e5 7.♗b3 ♙e7 8.f3  
♙e6 9.♗d2 ♗bd7 10.g4

The characteristic move for the English Attack.

**10...0-0**

10...h6 11.0-0-0 b5 12.h4 ♗b6 has also been played several times here, e.g. by Kasparov.

Black leaves the king 'safely' in the centre!

**11.0-0-0 ♖c7 12.h4 b5 13.h5 b4 14.♙d5 ♙xd5 15.exd5 ♗b6 16.♙xb6 ♖xb6 17.♙d3**

17.g5 ♗d7 18.♙h3 is probably wiser; after 18...♗c5 19.♗xc5 the position is roughly equal.

**17...a5 18.g5 ♗d7**

Interesting is 18...a4!? 19.gxf6 axb3, when

20.♚d1? ♙xf6 21.♖h6 is insufficient in view of 21...♚f8! 22.♖xf6 ♙xc2+! 23.♙xc2 (or 23.♙d1 ♚c1+! 24.♙xc1 ♖c3+ 25.♙d1

♙d3+ 26.♙e1 ♖b1+ 27.♙f2 ♖xb2+)

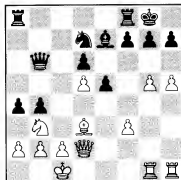
21...♖c3+ 24.♙b1 bxc2+ 25.♙xc2 b3+!

2b ♙d1 (26.axb3 ♚c8+, and mate) 26...♗d3+ 27.♙c1 ♖b1+ 28.♙f2 ♖xb2+, and Black wins. But with 20.♙xh7+! ♙xh7 21.♙d3+ ♙g8 22.fxe7 White can take Black right to the hunk. Black, however, saves himself with

22...bxa2 23.exf8 ♙+ ♙xf8 24.♙d2 a1 ♖

25 ♙xa1 ♙xa1 ♖6 ♙xa1 ♖f2+ 27.♖e2 ♖d4+, and a draw through perpetual check.

Thus an analysis by Gallagher.

**19.♙d1 a4****20.♙xh7+**

This looks winning, but appearances deceive. Black, by the way, would have met 20.♗a1 strongly with 20...a3 21.♗b3 ♗c5, and White is lost.

**20...♙xh7 21.g6+ ♙g8 22.h6 axb3! 23.hxg7**

And Black resigned?

**23...♖xg1+!**

No, he wins! The text removes the white rook from the h-file, and after a few moves a new black queen appears on a1.

**24.♙xg1 bxa2 25.gxf7+**

25.♖h6 doesn't help either in view of

25...a1 ♖+ 26.♙d2 fxe6 27.♖h8+ ♙f7, and now the black kings escapes after 28.♖h7:

28...♙e8! (28...♖xg1? 29.g8♙+, and mate!) 29.♖xg6+ ♙d8 30.♙xa1 ♙xa1 31.gxf8 ♖+ ♙xf8, and as in the game, Black will win the endgame.

25...♙xf7 26.♖g2 a1 ♖+ 27.♙d2 ♖xg1!

Extraordinary; Black continues to put his queen en prise!

**28.gxf8 ♖+ ♙xf8 29.♖xg1 ♙a5**

The complications are over. Now Black wins the endgame.

30.c4 bxc3+ e.p. 31.♙xc3 ♚c5+ 32.♙b4 Exd5 33.♙a4 ♙d4+ 34.♙a5 ♗d7 35.b4 d5 36.b5 ♙d8+ 37.♙a6 ♗c5+ 38.♙a7 ♗c7

White resigned.

## Dragon Variation

Black plays 2...d6 and 5...g6

SI 15.4

□ Donner

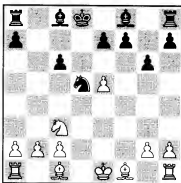
■ Spanjaard

The Netherlands 1953

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 g6 6.f4 ♘c6

The careless 6...♗g7?! is suspect in view of 7.e5, e.g. 7...dxc5?! 8.fxex5 ♗g4? 9.♗b5+, and White wins. But Black has a better defence in 7...♗h5, the point being 8.g4? ♗xf4!. After 8.♗b5+ ♗d7 9.e6!? fxex6 ♗xc3+ 11.bxc3 ♗c8 12.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 13.♗g5 ♗xc3+ 14.♗d2 ♗c4 15.♗b1, however, White has good compensation for the sacrificed pawn. Conquest-Watson, London 1989.

7.♗xc6 bxc6 8.e5 dxe5?!  
Better is 8...♗d7. See the game Grägger-Honfi.  
9.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 10.fxe5 ♗d5



10...♗d7 11.♗f4 ♗g7 12.0-0-0 ♗e8 13.♗c1  
is good for White, as is 10...♗g4 11.♗f4.  
11.♗xd5! cxd5 12.♗g5! h6

With his king in the centre, Black is exposed to attacks by the white pieces. After 12...♗e6 White can play the strong 13.0-0-0.

13.♗h4 g5 14.♗f2 ♗g7 15.0-0-0?!  
15.♗d4! is more accurate.

15...♗b7?!

Now everything is back on track again for White. Stronger was 15...♗xe5 16.♗xd5+ ♗d6, and it's not clear whether White can achieve much with 17.♗a5 a6 18.♗c4.

16.♗d4 e6

Now pawn f7 remains weak, but 16...f6 17.exf6 exf6 18.♗e2 is also unpleasant for Black.

17.♗e2 ♗e8

Or 17...♗e8 18.♗h1 h5 19.♗b5+ ♗f8 20.♗f2 ♗h6 21.♗d1, with great advantage for White.

18.♗h1 ♗e7 19.♗h5 ♗e8 20.♗f1!  
♗d7

If 20...♗x1f7 then 21.♗f1 wins. Very simple.

21.♗xe7+ ♗xe7 22.♗f1

Black resigned.

SI 15.5

□ Grägger

■ Honfi

Budapest 1961

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 g6 6.f4 ♘c6 7.♗xc6 bxc6  
8.e5 ♗d7! 9.♗f3

9.exd6 exd6 10.♗c3 ♙f6 11.♗d2 ♗g7  
12.0-0-0 d5 13.♗c5 ♗e6 gives Black good  
play, despite the fact that he can't castle,  
Nunn-Miles, London 1982.

9...♗g7!

The strongest reply! 9...♗b6? is met by  
10.exd6 exd6 11.♗c3! ♗xb2 12.♗d4 ♗xa1+  
13.♗d2 ♗g8 14.♗xc6 ♗b8 15.♗a6! ♗xh1  
16.♙xc8, and White wins, while after  
9...d5?! 10.h4! White grabs the initiative.

10.♗b5!?

After 10.♗xc6 ♗b8 11.exd6 0-0! Black has  
good compensation for the sacrificed pawns.

10...♗b8

10...0-0 11.♗xc6 ♗b8 12.exd6 exd6 is also  
worth trying. Black has compensation for his  
pawn.

11.♗xc6 dxe5 12.♗e3!? ♗xb2 13.0-0-0

♙4! 14.♗xe4

Certainly not 14.♗xe4? ♗a5, and Black wins.

14...♗xc3 15.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 16.♗xd7

♗xd7 17.♗a8+



17...♗b8!

The saving move! After 17...♗d8? 18.♗c6+  
♗d7 19.♗xc3 Black might as well resign,  
Staposhnikov-Bonch Osmolovsky, Soviet  
Union 1958.

18.♗xb8+ ♗d8 19.♗xd8+ ♗xd8

20.♗xa7 ♗c7 21.♗c5 ♗a8 22.a3

Bad is 22.♗e7? ♗xa2, and it's curtains for  
White.

22...♗c6 23.♗xe7 ♗a7

And drawn in view of 24.♗f8 ♗a8 25.♗c7  
♗a7 and a draw through move repetition.

SI 15.9

□ Basanta

■ Tolnai

Saint John 1988

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 g6 6.♗e2 ♗g7 7.0-0 ♙c6  
8.♗g5 0-0 9.♙b3 a6

A good alternative is 9...♗e6. The system with  
♗g5 was briefly fashionable due to Anatoly  
Karpov's resounding successes with it.

10.f4

After 10.a4, 10...♗a5 is a good reaction.

10...b5 11.♗f3 b4 12.♗d5

12.♗a4 may be a better idea.

12...♗xd5 13.exd5 ♗a5 14.♗xa5 ♗xa5  
15.♗h1

Taking the pawn is fine for Black. After  
15.♗e7?! ♗e8, 16.♗xd6? is impossible in  
view of 16...♗b6+. Hence the text.

15...♗e8 16.♗e1?!

16.♗c1 is a better idea, although Black has a  
good position after 16...♗b5.

16...♗xb2 17.♗b1 ♙c3 18.♗xe7 ♗xe7  
19.♗xe7 ♗xa2 20.g4

A deplorable move that will later enable  
Black to launch his combination; but  
20.♗xd6 didn't work in view of 20...♗f5  
21.♗c1 ♗b2 22.♗b1 ♗c8.  
20...♗b7 21.f5?!

After 21.♗xd6 ♗d8 22.♗xb4 ♗xd5 23.♗xd5  
♗d5 Black is also better, as he simply meets

24.♗xc3 ♗xd1+ 25.♗xd1 with 25...f5, after  
which he will win the endgame. The text,  
however, loses quickly.

21...♗c4 22.♗xd6

What else...?

22...♗d8 23.♗e7 ♗xd5! 24.♗f1

After 24.♗d5 ♗xd5+ 25.♗g1 ♗d4+ the

game is over.

24...♖xf1+ 25.♗f1 ♠d1! 26.♗g2 ♗xf1  
27.♗xb7 ♠a1  
White resigned.

SI 15.13

□ Bilek  
■ Bachtiar

Beverwijk 1966

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗c4 g6?!

This is less good. There is nothing better than 6...e6.

7.♗xc6 bxc6 8.e5! ♗h5

Black cannot take on e5: 8...dxe5? 9.♗xf7+, losing the queen. After the other knight move (8...♗g4) 9.♗f4! is good for White, e.g. 9...d5 10.♗xd5! cxd5 11.♗xd5 ♗f5 12.f3 ♗h6 13.♗xa8 ♗xa8 14.♗d2 ♗g8 15.0-0-0 h5 16.♗c3 ♗g7 17.♗a5 ♗h6 18.♗a4+, and Black resigned in Väyrynen-Ullrich, correspondence game 1990, as after 18...♗f8 White plays the decisive 19.♗b6; or 9...♗h6 10.♗h6 ♗xh6 11.♗d2 ♗f5 12.exd6 ♗xd6 13.0-0-0 ♗c7 14.♗f4 0-0 15.♗e4, with advantage for White, Suetin-Makarichev, Moscow 1983.

9.♗f3 e6

9...d5? is completely out of the question: 10.♗xd5! exd5 11.♗xd5.

10.exd6!

10.♗xc6+?! seems obvious, but after 10...♗d7 things are unclear. The text is far stronger.

10...♗xd6 11.0-0 ♗b7 12.♠d1 ♗b4

If 12...♗c7 then 13.g4 ♗g7 14.♗f4, with a large advantage for White.

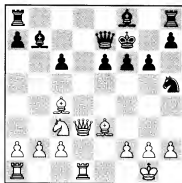
13.♗d3 ♗e7 14.♗g5 f6

Not, of course, 14...♗g5? in view of 15.♗d7, and mate. But the text weakens the black position even further.

15.♗e3 ♗f7

15...♗g7 is met by 16.♗c5 ♗xc5 17.♗d7+

♗f8 18.♗xb7, and wins. Relatively best, but still utterly hopeless, of course, was 15...♗d8.



16.♗d7! ♗c8

Or 16...♗g7 17.♗c5!, and Black might as well resign.

17.♗xe6+

Black resigned.

SI 16.2

□ Alekhine  
■ Botvinnik

Nottingham 1936

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e2 ♗g7 7.♗e3 ♘c6  
8.♘b3 ♗e6 9.f4 0-0 10.g4 d5!?

Following the rule that action on the wing should be countered by action in the centre. But 10...♗a5?! 11.f5 ♗c4, and even 10...♗c8 11.f5 ♗xb3, are playable options, too.

11.f5

After 11.e5 Black has a strong reply in 11...d4!, Levenfish-Botvinnik, Moscow 1936.

11...♗c8

11...d4?! is also worth considering: after 12.♗xd4 ♗d7! 13.♗d2 ♗xd4 14.♗xd4 ♗c6

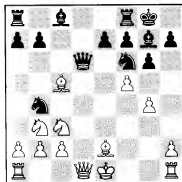
Black is not doing badly.

12.exd5 ♘b4 13.d6

In later years, the possibility of 13.♗f3!?! xv15 14.a3! fxg4 15.♗g2 ♗a6 16.♗d3 was discovered. White is probably slightly better.

13...♗xd6 14.♗c5

After 14.♗xd6 exd6 15.0-0-0 gxf5 Black has no problems.



14...♗f4!

Bad is 14...♗xd1+? 15.♗xd1 ♘c6 16.g5 ♗d7 17.f6 ♗h8 18.♗d5. It is true that after the text White wins the b4 knight, but Black has the chance to go for perpetual check.

15.♗f1 ♗xh2 16.♗b4 ♘g4!

But Black must be careful. 16...♗g3+? 17.♗f2 ♗xg4 18.♗c4! is bad.

17.♘g4 ♗g3+ 18.♗f2  
White cannot avoid the perpetual: 18.♗d2? ♗h6+, and Black wins.

18...♗g1+ 19.♗f1 ♗g3+ 20.♗f2 ♗g1+  
Draw.

SI 16.3

[ ] CITY of Stalingrad

■ CITY of Saratov

Telegraphic intercity game 1948

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗e2 g6 7.♗e3 ♗g7

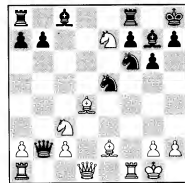
8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 ♗b6! 10.e5?!

This pawn sac leads to complicated play. Despite White's success in this game, the text has a dubious reputation. 10.♗d2? is weak in view of 10...♗xe4!, and Black has won a pawn.

A better continuation is 10.♗d3?! ♗g4 (now 10...♗xe4? is not good in view of 11.♗xc6) 11.♗d5 ♗xd4, and now not 12.♗xb6?! ♗xe3+ 13.♗h1 ♗xb6 – and Black is better with three pieces for the queen – but 12.♗xg4! ♗xe3+ 13.♗xc3 ♗xc3+ 14.♗xc3 ♗xg4 15.♗xg4, with equality.

10...dxe5 11.fxe5 ♗xe5 12.♗f5 ♗xb2!  
13.♗xe7+ ♗h8 14.♗d4

14.♗xc8 is met by 14...♗xc3! 15.♗d4 ♗xc8 16.♗xe5 ♗d8, with good play for Black.



14...♗g8?!

Stronger is 14...♗b4! 15.♗xe5 (after 15.♗xc8 Black has 15...♗d8!) 15...♗xc7 16.♗d4 ♗h5 17.♗xg7+ ♗xg7 18.♗d3 ♗c6, and White has insufficient compensation for the sacrificed pawn. After the text Black's problems persist, especially because of the precarious position of his queen.

15.♗b5! ♗b4

The liquidation 15...♗f3+? 16.♗f3 ♗xd4+ 17.♗xd4 ♗xe7 costs Black his queen: 18.♗b3.

16.♗d5 ♗a4 17.♗f4! g5 18.♗e4 f6

**19.♖xf6! ♖c6?!**

This trick fails. Relatively better is 19...♗xf6!? 20.♚xc5! ♚d8 21.♚e4 ♗xd4+ 22.♚xd4 ♚xd4 23.♖xd4 ♗d7 24.♖d2, with advantage for White.

**20.♖c3!**

The more obvious 20.♗c5?! is less clear after 20...♗a5 21.♗xf8 ♖xf6 22.♗g7+ ♗xg7 23.♖e3 ♖b6.

**20...♗a6 21.♖xh7! ♖b6+ 22.♖h1 ♚f5** After 22...♗xh7 White wins with 23.♚d3 ♚f5 24.♖h5+ ♗h6 25.♖e6!

**23.♖xg5!**

Black is lost; his king cannot escape the barrage from the white pieces.

**23...♗xc3 24.♚h4+ ♗g7 25.♚h7+ ♗f8 26.♖xc3 ♗xg5 27.♗h5 ♚f5 28.♖g4 ♖d4 29.♖g6 ♗e6 30.♖xe6 ♖f4 31.♖e2**

Black resigned.

SI 16.5

□ Daniliuk

■ Malakhov

Elista 1995

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 g6 3.d4 ♗g7 4.♖c3 cxd4 5.♖xd4 ♖c6 6.♖b3 ♖f6 7.♗e2 0-0**

**8.0-0 d6 9.♗e3 ♗e6 10.f4 ♚c8**

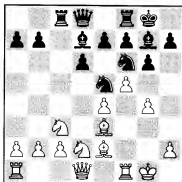
Good alternatives are 10...♖c8 and 10...♖a5.

**11.f5?!**

Tempting. But relinquishing square e5 to the black knight will cause problems for White. After, for example, 11.♖h1 a6 12.♗f3 ♖c4 13.♚f2 e5 14.♚d2 ♖e8 the position is approximately equal. Nijboer-Szalanczy, Vienna 1990.

**11...♗d7 12.g4 ♖e5 13.♖d2**

After 13.♗d4 ♚xc3! 14.bxc3 ♖xe4 15.♖d2 ♖xd2 16.♖xd2 ♖c6 Black had good compensation for the exchange. Ravinsky-Simagin, Moscow 1957. After 13.g5 Black had also planned 13...♗c3!: 14.gxf6 (14.bxc3 is met by 14...♖xe4 again) 14...♗xe3 15.fxg7 ♗xg7, with good play for Black. White cannot make life difficult for the e3 rook.

**13...♗xc3!**

Although Black doesn't win the e4 pawn now, the exchange sacrifice is still strong.

**14.bxc3 ♖c6 15.♗f3 ♖xf3+ 16.♖xf3 d5!**

The point of Black's play. White will not survive the opening of the diagonal of ♖c6.

**17.♗d4**

17.e5 is met by 17...d4 18.♖g3 dxc3 19.♖xf6 ♖d5 20.♖f3 ♖xf6, and the black bishops dominate the board.

**17...dxe4 18.♖h3 ♖xg4!**

A fine additional point of Black's play.

**19.♖xg7**

Or 19.♖xg4 ♗xd4+ 20.cxd4 ♖xd4+, and Black wins, as 21.♚f2 won't work in view of 21...♖xa1+.

**19...♖xg7 20.♖xe4**

After 20.♖xg4 ♖xd2 the white position is a pretty sorry sight as well.

**20...♖b6+ 21.♖f2 gxf5**

And White resigned. There is no cure for 22...♖h8 and 23...♚g8.

SI 17.2

□ Golenev

■ Lokhanin

Soviet Union 1966

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♖c6 8.♖c4 ♖b6?!**

This may be playable, but it's pretty dubious. Normal is 8...0-0, transposing to the Yugoslav Attack after 9.♖d2 if White so desires.

**9.♖f5!?**

9.♖b5 has also been played here, but Black can save himself with 9...♖c7 10.♖d5 ♖xd5 11.exd5 a6.

**9...♖xb2 10.♖xg7+ ♗f8 11.♖d5 ♖xd5 12.♖xd5!?**

12.♖xd5 has also occurred in a few games. White has compensation for his pawn, but the position is not very clear.

**12...♖xa1+**

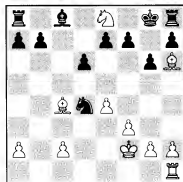
An interesting possibility is the line indicated by Shashin: 12...♗e6!? 13.♖xe6+ ♖xe6 14.♖xe6 ♖xa1+ 15.♖f2 ♖f6 16.♗h6+ ♖e8 17.♖xf6 ♖xf6 18.♗g7 ♖e7 19.♗xh8 ♗xh8, with equality. A nice way for Black to pull the sting from the white attack!

**13.♖f2 ♖f6?**

A logical move, but not a good one! After 13...♖xg7! White plays 14.♗h6, of course,

but the endgame remaining after 14...♗e6 15.♗xg7+ ♗xg7 16.♖b5 ♗xc4 17.♖xc4 ♚ac8 is at best marginally better for him. And according to Tiviakov, it is Black who is slightly better.

**14.♗h6 ♗g8 15.♖e8! ♖d4+ 16.♖xd4 ♖xd4**

**17.♖c7?!**

The correct move in the wrong order! Correct is 17.♚d1!, transposing to the game after 17...♖c6 18.♖c7 ♚b8 19.♚d6!. In the correspondence game Bratsev-Dragnov, 1967/68, Black played 17...♗e6, followed by the beautiful sequence 18.♖f6+ ♖xf6 19.♚d4 ♚d8 20.g4 ♚c8 21.♗b3 ♚d8 22.♗d5 b5 23.♚d3 a5 24.h3 f5 25.♗c3 ♚c8 26.gxf5 gxf5 27.exf5 ♗xc3 28.fxe6 ♚xc2+ 29.♗g3 ♚c7 30.f4 fxe6 31.♗xe6+ ♚f7 32.f5 b4 33.f6 a4 34.♗g7, and Black resigned. A magnificent garrotte!

**17...♚b8 18.♚d1 ♖c6?**

Now White can successfully round off his combination. After 18...b5! the outcome is by no means clear.

**19.♚xd6! exd6**

After 19...♗e6 White has 20.♗e6!

**20.♖e8**

And Black resigned, as he will be mated on the next move.

## SI 17.4

- Volchok  
■ Grohde

Correspondence game 1997

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♗c6  
8.♗d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 d5 10.♖b1?

A move that is less innocent than it looks.

10...♗xd4

10...dxc4? is bad in view of 11.♗xc6 ♗xd2  
12.♗xe7+, and White wins a piece. 10...e5?!  
is met by 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.exd5 cxd5  
13.exd5 – with the g7-b2 diagonal closed,  
White is running fewer risks than in the variation  
we will see in the games under SI 17.5.

11.e5!?

The point of 10.♖b1, although it would go  
too far to say that this move gives White an  
advantage.

11...♗xf3

Black's strongest reply is probably 11...♗f5!?,  
followed by 12.exf6 ♗xf6 13.exd5 ♗xd5!  
14.♗d5 ♗xe3 15.♗d2 ♗xd1 16.♗xd1 ♗e6,  
and the position is unclear. Black has a rook  
and a bishop for the queen and his bishops are  
very active. Practice has shown that chances  
are approximately equal. An example is Volchok-  
Lecroq, correspondence game 1998/99:  
17.♗d3 ♗f8 18.h4 ♗d6 19.h5 ♗b6 20.b3 a5  
21.hxg6 hxg6 22.♗g1 ♗d6 23.♗e3 ♗ad8  
24.♗d1 a4 25.g4 axb3 26.cxb3 b5 27.♗e2  
♗c4! 28.bxc4 bxc4 29.♗c2 ♗b8+ 30.♗b3  
cxb3 31.♗xd6, and a draw was agreed.

12.gxf3 ♗d7

The continuation 12...♗h5 13.exd5 ♗e6  
14.f4 ♗xd5 15.♗xd5 ♗xd5 16.♗e5 ♗h6  
17.♗c4 ♗xf4 18.♗xf4 ♗xf4 19.♗d7 ♗f8  
20.b3! b5 21.♗xb5 ♗c5 22.a4 ♗xe5 23.♗d1  
was seen in two other correspondence games  
by the pawn he is down.

13...♗xd5 ♗xe5

13...♗xe5? costs Black the exchange: 14.♗f6+.

14.♗h3! ♗d6

14...e6?! is met by 15.♗g5, while after  
14...♗g7?! White plays 15.♗e5, in both cases  
with advantage for White.

15.♗h6 ♗e8?

Now Black is out of it. He should have sacrific-  
ed the exchange: 15...♗b6?! 16.♗xb6 axb6  
17.♗xc8 ♗xc8 18.♗d4 f6 19.♗xf8 ♗xf8  
20.h4 ♗c7, and White's advantage was not very  
clear. Volchok-Johnson, correspond-  
ence game 1996/99.

16.♗he1 ♗c5

Or 16...♗b6 17.♗f6+! exf6 18.♗e8+ ♗xe8  
19.♗xd6 ♗e6 20.♗xe6 fxe6 (20...♗xc6  
21.♗d8+ ♗e8 22.♗xf6) 21.♗c7 ♗f7  
22.♗d8+, and it's curtains, or 16...♗e5 17.f4  
♗g4 18.♗xg4 ♗xg4 19.♗f6+ exf6 20.♗xe8+  
♗xe8 21.♗xd6 ♗e6 22.f5!, winning.

Variations by Volchok.

17.♗c3 e5

17...f6 is met by 18.♗xf6+! exf6 19.♗d6!,  
and White wins.

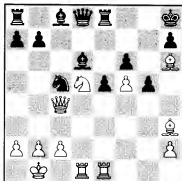
18.f4 f6

Otherwise White plays 19.♗g5.

19.f5! g5

Black has to keep his position closed.

20.♗c4 ♗h8



21.♗xf6!

A nice winning move!

21...♗xf6 22.♗xd6! ♗e4

The only option; after 22...♗d6 23.♗f7 ♗g8

24.f6 Black is mated.

23.♗xf6 ♗d2+ 24.♖c1 ♗xc4 25.b3 ♗b6  
26.♗xe5

Black might as well have resigned here.

26...♗d7 27.♗xe8+ ♗xe8 28.♗xg5 ♗g7  
29.♗d6

Nicer and quicker was 29.♗xb6 axb6 30.f6+  
♗g6 31.♗xd7 ♗d8 32.f7! ♗xg5 33.♗e8, accord-  
ing to Volchok himself.

29...♗f7 30.♗h6 ♗g8 31.f6 ♗xh3

32.♗xh3 ♗e2 33.♗d2 ♗f2 34.♗g3+ ♗f7

35.♗g7+ ♗xf6 36.♗xh7

Black resigned.

## SI 17.5

□ Tolnai

■ Perenyi

Budapest 1981

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0-0  
8.♗d2 ♗c6 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 ♗xd5  
11.♗c6 bxc6 12.♗xd5

This move is of fundamental importance for  
the entire variation. Can White take the pro-  
fessed pawn or not? This is still not clear.

12...cxd5 13.♗xd5 ♗c7 14.♗c5

After 14.♗xa8 ♗f5 15.♗xf8+ ♗xf8 16.♗d2  
b5 the books say that Black's prospects are  
slightly better.

14...♗b7 15.♗d4!?

It is obvious that White wants to neutralise  
the influence of ♗g7, yet the text is not the  
best way to go about it. 15.♗b5?! ♗xb5  
16.♗xb5 ♗b8 is also good for Black. One  
possibility is 15.♗a3!?, e.g. 15...♗f5 16.♗e6  
♗c7 17.♗c5 ♗b6 18.♗xb6 axb6 19.♗c4  
♗c8 20.♗b3 ♗xa2! 21.♗d8+ ♗xd8 22.♗xa2,  
with an approximately equal endgame.

For 15.b3, see the game Psakhis-David.

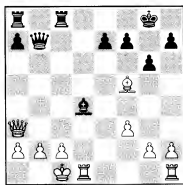
15...♗f5 16.♗d3

After 16.♗b5 ♗c7 17.♗c2 (17.♗c5? is met  
by the ingenious 17...♗f4+ 18.♗c3 ♗a4

19.♗c4 ♗a5 20.♗d5 ♗fc8!), and the attack  
strikes home, Schöne-Becher, Germany 1959)  
the long variation 17...♗f8 18.c4 ♗f4+  
19.♗d2 ♗h6 20.g3 ♗xd4! 21.♗xh6 ♗xc4+!  
22.♗x4 ♗xc4+ 23.♗d2 ♗d8+ 24.♗e3 ♗c5+  
25.♗e2 ♗b5+ 26.♗c3 ♗c5+ 27.♗f2 ♗xb2+  
28.♗c3 ♗a3+ 29.♗e2 ♗a6+ 30.♗c3 ♗e6+  
31.♗f2 ♗a2+ leads to a good endgame for  
Black, Marton-Rigo, Budapest 1982.

16.♗a3 ♗c7 17.♗c3 ♗f4! 18.♗d2 ♗d4  
19.♗c3 ♗e3+ 20.b1 ♗fc8 is also quite annoy-  
ing for White.

16...♗fc8 17.♗a3 ♗xd4 18.♗xf5



18...♗c3! 19.♗e4

After 19.bxc3 White is completely cornered  
by 19...♗c3+ 20.♗d2 gxf5 21.c4 f4.

19...♗b6 20.♗xe7

Now 20.bxc3 is met by 20...♗c3+ 21.♗d2  
♗b8 22.♗b3 ♗xd2+ 23.♗xd2 ♗f2+, and  
wins.

20...♗xc2+! 21.♗xc2

Or 21.♗xc2 ♗xb2+ 22.♗d3 ♗c3+ 23.♗c2  
♗c3+, and mate.

21...♗xb2+ 22.♗d2 ♗c3+ 23.♖c1 ♗c8  
24.♗e4

Or 24.♗d2 ♗a1 mate.

24...♗a3+ 25.♗d2 ♗xc2+! 26.♖e1

Or 26.♗xc2 ♗c3+, and mate; or 26.♗xc2  
♗c3 mate.

26...♗c3+

White resigned.

SI 17.5

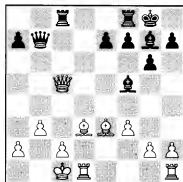
□ Psakhis

■ David

Andorra 1996

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 d6 3.♙f3 ♘f6 4.d4 cxd4  
5.♙xd4 g6 6.♖e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♗d2  
♙c6 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 ♙xd5 11.♙xc6  
bxc6 12.♙xd5 cxd5 13.♗xd5 ♗c7  
14.♗c5 ♗b7 15.b3 ♗f5 16.♗d3

After 16.♗d3?! ♖ac8 17.♗d5 ♗xc4!  
18.♗xc4 ♖c8 19.♗c5 h5 Black has good  
compensation for the material he has lost.  
16...♗ac8



17.♗a5

After 17.♗xa7 Black draws with 17...♙xd3  
18.♗xb7 ♗xc2+ 19.♖b1 ♖b2+, Rytshagov-Savchenko, Barnaul 1988. Instead of 17...♙xd3 the Hungarian A. Schneider has recommended 17...♗b5: 18.♗x5f5 (18.♗xb5? ♗xc2+ 19.♖b1 ♖c4+, and mate) 18...♗xf5 19.c4 ♖a8 20.♗c5 ♗f6, "with a very strong attack", but after both 21.♗d4 and 21.♗d4 this is not at all clear.

17...♖c3 18.♗xf5 ♖xe3 19.♗e4 ♗b8  
20.g3 ♗c8 21.g4 ♖e2

Another option is 21...♗b8!?. In the correspondence game Klauner-Qwint, 1995, there followed 22.♗g5 ♗b6! 23.♗d7?! (after

23.♗xc7 ♗a5 Black has the usual compensation in this line) 23...♖c2 24.♖d1 ♖xh2, with advantage for Black.

22.h4 ♗b8 23.g5?!

This move won't trouble Black. Stronger is 23.♖b1, when Black hangs on to his compensation with 23...♖c8 or 23...♖h2.

23...♖h2! 24.♗xh2 ♗xh2 25.♗xa7!+  
♗f4+ 26.♖b1 ♗e5 27.c5 ♗f4+  
28.♖b1 ♗e5 29.♖c1

Draw.

SI 17.5

□ Adams

■ Fedorov

Wijk aan Zee 2001

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 g6 6.♖e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♙c6  
8.♗d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 ♙xd5  
11.♙xc6 bxc6 12.♙xd5 cxd5 13.♗xd5  
♗c7 14.♗c5 ♗b8

For 14...♗b7, see the previous games Tolnai-Perenyi and Psakhis-David.

15.♗a3



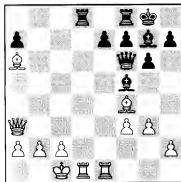
15.b3 could be followed by 15...♗f5 16.♗d3  
♖c8 17.♗a5 ♖c3 18.♗xf5 ♗xe3 19.♗e4 ♗f4  
20.g3 (in Ivanchuk-Hodgson, Amsterdam

1996, White went 20.♗xa8?!, and now Black missed the strongest continuation: 20...♗d3+!, and after 21.♖b1 ♗d4 22.♗d8+! ♗xh8 23.♙xd3 ♗xa8 24.♖h1 ♗f8 25.♗d8 ♗h7 26.♖e8 ♗b6 27.♗d8 ♗g1+ 28.♖b2 ♗xg2 29.♖xf8+ ♖g7, he has slightly better prospects, according to Hodgson) 20...♗f6 21.♗d8+ ♙xd8 22.♗xd8+ ♗f8 23.♖b1, with an unclear position in which Black has compensation. An idea of the Dutch player De Laat is 15.c3!?, ♗e6 16.♗d3, but this suggestion has not been tested at grandmaster level.

15...♗e6 16.♗a6 ♗e5 17.g3 ♖ad8  
18.♗f4 ♗xg7 19.♖he1

Maybe 19.♗c7, as played in the game Kosanovic-Rajlich, Budapest 2001, deserves closer examination.

19...♗f5



20.♗xd8

Another possibility is 20.♗c4, when after 20...♗d1+ 21.♗d1 ♖c8 22.♗b3 ♗c6 23.♗d2 e6 24.♗xa7 ♗xf3 the position is very unclear.

20...♙xd8 21.c3?!

This is not good. After 21.♗c4 Fedorov has indicated 21...♖c8, but this isn't very clear: 22.♗xe7! ♗f8 23.♗f7 ♙xa3 24.♖xf6+ ♙xc4 25.bxc3 ♙xc2+ 26.♖d1 ♖xh2 (White was threatening ♗h6) 27.g4.

21...♗b6 22.♗e3 ♗h6! 23.f4

This is a fatal weakening of White's position,

but there was nothing better; after 23.♗xh6? ♗f2 it is finished.

23...♗c6 24.♗d2

24.g4 is met by 24...♗xg4 25.♗xe7 ♖e8 26.♗b7 ♗f6, with the winning threat of 27...♗xe3.

24...♗d5 25.♖e2 e5! 26.♗a4 exf4  
27.gxf4?

Relatively best was 27.♖e8+, although 27...♖xe8 28.♗xe8+ ♗f8 29.b3 ♗h1+ 30.♗h1 ♗c6 is good for Black, thus Fedorov.

27...♗xf4! 28.♖e8+

Or 28.♗xf4 ♗h1+; or 28.♗xf4 ♗xa2.

28...♖g7 29.♗xf4

Or 29.♙xd8 ♙xd2+.

29...♙xe8 30.♖c4 ♗h1+ 31.♗f1 g8!

Black still has to be careful: 31...♗h3? 32.♗h6+, or 31...♗d3? 32.♗d4+.

And after this move White resigned.

SI 17.5

□ Kuijf

■ Rechlis

Beer Sheva 1987

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 g6 6.♖e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0-0  
8.♗d2 ♙c6 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 ♙xd5  
11.♙xc6 bxc6 12.♙xd5 cxd5 13.♗h6

Also an idea. White spurs the pawn and continues his own attack. But this plan is not very dangerous for Black.

13...♗xh6 14.♗xh6 ♗a5 15.♖b1 e5

Kuijf-Ernst, Thessaloniki Olympiad 1988, which was played later, saw 15...♖h8 16.h4 ♗f5 17.♗d3 ♗a3 (unfortunately, 17...♗xb2+? does not work: 18.♖xb2 ♖b8+ 19.♖c1 ♙a3+ 20.♖d2 ♙xd3 21.♖c3!) 18.b3 ♙xd3 19.♗d3 ♖f8 20.♗d2 e6 21.h5, with advantage for White.

16.h4 ♖b8 17.h5

Safer is 17.♗d3!?, e.g. 17...c4!? 18.fxe4 ♗g4 (18...♗b4 19.b3 dxe4 20.♗e2 ♗c5 21.h5 g5

is slightly unclear, but is probably equal, Podlesnik-Justin, Yugoslavia 1989) 19.♖d1 ♚xb2+ 20.♗xb2 ♚b8+ 21.♖c1 ♖a3+ 22.♗d2 d4 23.♖f4, and a draw was agreed in view of the perpetual that Black now has, Lepelletier-Hausrath, Hania 1994.

### 17...♗f5 18.♗d3

After 18.g4? Black smashes the white king position with sacrifices: 18...♗xc2+! 19.♗xc2 ♚xb2+! 20.♗xb2 ♚b8+ 21.♖c2 ♖xa2+ 22.♗d3 ♖b3 mate.

### 18...e4 19.hxg6?!

Now White has blown his chances on the kingside. Better is 19.fx4 ♖c3 20.♖c1 dxc4 21.♗e2 ♗fc8 22.g4, with an unclear battle, Spangenberg-Escobar, Buenos Aires 1990.

### 19...♗xg6!

Now the black king position is sufficiently safeguarded, and Black can concentrate on his own actions on the other wing.

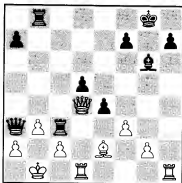
### 20.♗e2 ♗fc8 21.♖e3?!

21.♗d2 may be a better way to stop the black attack.

### 21...♗c3!

Less clear is 21...exf3?! 22.♗d3, e.g. 22...fxg2 23.♗xg6 gxh1 ♖24.♗xh1.

### 22.♖d4 ♖a3 23.b3



### 23...♗xc2!

With ♗g6 glowing threateningly in the distance, this sacrifice is not so difficult to find! 24.♗xc2 ♖xa2+ 25.♖b2

Or 25.♖c1 ♖xb3.

### 25...e3+! 26.♖c1 ♗c8+ 27.♗c4 ♗xc4+

White resigned. After 28.bxc4 ♖xc4+ it is curtains.

## SI 17.6

□ Groeneveld

■ Di Palma

Correspondence game 1990

### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4

♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♗c6

8.♖d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 ♗xd5

11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.♗d4

With this much-played move White sidesteps the complications arising after taking the pawn with 12.♗xd5.

### 12...e5 13.♗c5 ♗e6!?

14.♗e4 Accepting the exchange sac with 14.♗xh8?! is risky. After 14...♖xh8 15.♖b1 ♚b8 Black has good compensation. An example is 16.♗d5 Black was already threatening 16...e4) 16...cxd5 17.♖a5 e4 18.b3 ♖e7 19.fx4 dxe4 20.c3 ♗c8 21.♗c1 ♗c5 22.♖b4 ♖c7 23.♗a6 (or 23.♖b2 a5) 23...♗xc3 24.♖b7 e3, and Black is winning. Kern-Boudignon, correspondence game 1995.

### 14...♚b8 15.c4

Other moves are 15.h4 and 15.♗c4. I have to refer the reader to what the books have to say on this subject.

### 15...♖c7 16.♗xf8?!

This is still highly dangerous. But 16.♗g5 can be met strongly by 16...e4! and 18.cxd5? fails to 18...♗h6! after 16.♗d6 ♖b7 17.♗xb8 ♚xb8. In this variation a better option for White is to play 17.c5 ♖b7 18.♗xf8 ♗xf8 19.♗d6, but after 19...♗xd6 20.cxd6 ♗b4 Black again has compensation for the exchange.

### 16...♗xf8 17.cxd5

After 17.♖b1 ♗b4 18.♖d3 ♗f4 19.♖c2 ♗f5 Black has good compensation; he will have to

continue with ♗f4-e6-d4.

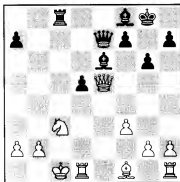
### 17...cxd5+ 18.♖c3

18.♖b1 is met by 18...dxe4 19.fx4 ♗b4, followed by 20...♖a5.

### 18...♖e7 19.♖xe5

The main threat was 19...♗c8.

### 19...♗c8+ 20.♗c3



White is a full rook up, but he should fear for his life!

### 20...♗h6+!

A very strong move! Less clear is 20...♗g7?! 21.♖f4 ♖c5 22.♗d2 ♖b6 23.c6 ♗xb2 24.e2 ♗c4.

### 21.f4

This is forced, as 21.♖b1? costs the queen in view of 21...♗f5+, while after 21.♗d2 Black has 21...d4 22.♖xd4 ♗d8.

### 21...♗g7 22.♖e3

The move ♖f4 from the variation given under Black's 20th move is not possible now!

### 22...♖b4 23.♗d3 d4 24.a3 ♖a4!

### 25.♖e4?

Now White will soon have to throw in the towel. But even after 25.♖d2 dxc3 26.♗d8+ ♗xd8 27.♖xd8+ ♗f8 28.bxc3 ♖xa3+ Black has a strong attack.

### 25...♗f5 26.♖b1

After 26.♖b7 dxc3 27.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 28.♗d8+ ♗f8 29.♖xc8 ♖xf4+ it is also finished.

### 26...♗xc3

White resigned.

## SI 17.6

□ Tiviakov

■ Ernst, Thomas

Gausdal 1992

### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4

♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♗c6

8.♖d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 ♗xd5

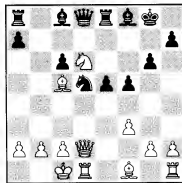
11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.♗d4 e5 13.♗e8 ♗e8

Interesting and possibly stronger is 13...♗e6. See the game Groeneveld-Di Palma.

### 14.♗e4

With 14.♗xd5?! cxd5 15.♖xd5 ♖xd5 16.♖xd5 White can still win the pawn. Black then plays 16...♗e6, but after 17.♗d6 ♗xa2 18.b4! (stronger than 18.b3 ♗c8 19.♗d5 a5! 20.♖b2 a4 21.♖xa2 axb3+ 22.♖xb3 ♗a5 23.♗c4, draw, Tisdall-Keene, Aarhus 1983) it is anything but plain sailing, e.g. 18...a5 19.♗b5 ♗c8 20.♗d7 ♗c7 21.♗c6 ♗a8 22.b5 ♗f8 23.♗hd1 ♗xd6 24.♖xd6, and despite the exchange, Black's position is not great. Kruppa-Tiviakov, Kherson 1991.

### 14...f5 15.♗d6 ♗f8



### 16.♗xe8

Another option is 16.♗b5!?, e.g. 16...♗d7 17.♗he1 ♗e6 18.♗b7 ♖c7 19.♗a6 ♗c8 20.♗xf8 ♗xb7 21.♗b7 ♖xb7 22.♗a3 ♖a6 23.♖b1 ♗a8, with approximate equality.



Georgiev-Altman, Burgas 1995. Complicated!

**16...♙xc5 17.c4 ♖b6!?**

After 17...f4 18.♗b1 ♙f5+ 19.♙d3 ♘e3 20.♙xf5 ♘xd1 21.♙xd1 ♙xd2 22.♙xd2 gxf5 23.♙c7 ♙e8 24.♙d7 White is slightly better, according to an analysis by Tiviakov.

**18.♗b1 ♘e3**

18...♗b4 was worth considering as well; 19.♙h6 is met by 19...♙f8. Again extremely complicated!

**19.♙f6+**

Very good for Black is 19.♙e1?! ♙e6 20.♙f6+ ♘g7 21.♙d7 ♙xd7 22.♙xd7+ ♘h6. 19...♘f8

19...♘g7 may be met by 20.♙d7 ♙xd7 21.♙xd7+ ♘h6 22.♙d2! ♙b4 23.♙d3 ♘xc4 24.f4 ♘a3+ 25.♗a1 ♘c2+ 26.♗b1 ♘a3+, and a draw. Again according to the analysis by Tiviakov.

**20.♙d7**

After 20.♙e1 f4 21.♙d7 ♙xd7 22.♙xd7+ ♘e7 23.♙xb6 ♙xb6 Black's strong knight on ♘e3 should give him good compensation for the exchange.

**20...♙xd1 21.♙xh7+ ♘g8 22.♙f6+ ♘f8 23.♙h7+**

And a draw was agreed. Food for hours of analysis!

SI 17.7

□ Fiore

■ Petrillo

Correspondence game 1991

**1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♘f6 5.♙c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♙d2 ♘c6 9.g4 ♙e6 10.0-0-0 ♙xd4 11.♙xd4 ♙a5 12.a3 ♙ab8 13.h4 ♙f8**

A good idea is 13...b5! at once. After 14.h5?! b4 Black's attack is one move quicker than in the game, e.g. 15.♙d5 (or 15.♙b1 ♙f8 16.hxg6 fxg6, with a black attack)

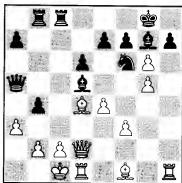
**15...♙xd5 16.exd5 ♙xd5 17.♙xb4 ♙a2 18.c3 ♙f8 19.hxg6 hxg6 20.b5 e5 21.♙f2 e4 22.♙d4 ♘d5**, and Black wins. Tonnig-Reschke, Groningen 1995. 23.♙xg7 fails to 23...♙a1+ 24.♙c2 ♘b4+ 25.♙b3 ♙a2+ 26.♙xb4 a5 mate!

The most solid reply to 13...b5! is 14.♙d5, with a swap and an approximately equal position: 14...♙xd2+ 15.♙xd2 ♙xd5 16.exd5.

**14.h5 b5 15.hxg6 b4 16.♙d5**

A possibility is 16.gxh7+ ♘h8, and now 17.♙b1?! looks like a tough nut to crack. How is Black going to get through?

**16...♙xd5 17.g5!?**



**17...♙a4?**

This is refuted, and 17...e5? is also bad: 18.gxf6 ♙xf6 19.gxh7+ ♘h8 20.♙g1 exd4 21.♙h6 ♙xc2+ 22.♙xc2 ♙a4+ 23.♙d2 ♙e5 24.♙b5!, and Black resigned, S. Polgar-Lindemann, Vienna 1991. The point is 24...♙xb5 25.♙g8+ ♙xg8 26.hxg8♙++ ♘xg8 27.♙g1+, and mate.

Correct is 17...♙xc4!, e.g. 18.gxh7+ ♘h8 19.♙xg7+ ♘xg7 20.♙d4+ e5 21.♙xd5 ♙xd5 22.♙xd5 ♘g3 23.♙g1 ♘xf1 24.♙xf1 ♙xa3 25.bxa3, with an equal endgame, Haese-Weber, correspondence game 1995.

**18.gxf6 exf6 19.gxh7+ ♘h8 20.b5!**

The same trick as in Polgar-Lindemann! The text gains a tempo to get the d-rook to the g-file.

**20...♙xb5**

After 20...♙xb5 21.♙dgl bxa3 22.♙g2 ♙xb2+ 23.♙xb2 ♙xc2+ 24.♙xc2 ♙c5 25.♙xc5 dxc5 26.♙xg7 it is also finished.

**21.exd5 ♙xd5**

Or 21...bxa3 22.♙g2 ♙xb2+ (22...♙xc2+ 23.♙xc2 ♙xb2+ 24.♙xb2 ♙xb2+ 25.♙d3 ♙xe2 26.♙c1) 23.♙b1 ♙a4 24.♙xg7+ ♘xg7 25.♙dgl+ ♘f8 26.h8♙+, and mate.

**22.♙dgl ♙xf3**

22...♙a2 is met by 23.♙g2, and Black might as well resign.

**23.♙b4**

Now White calmly takes the pawn.

**23...♙e8 24.♙h2**

Black resigned; there is no cure for 25.♙hg2.

SI 17.7

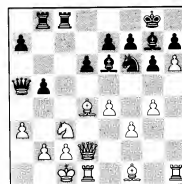
□ Plaskett

■ Watson

Brighton 1983

**1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♘f6 5.♙c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♙d2 ♘c6 9.g4 ♙e6 10.0-0-0 ♙xd4 11.♙xd4 ♙a5 12.a3 ♙f8 13.h4 ♙ab8 14.h5 b5 15.h6**

For 15.hxg6, see the game Fiore-Petrillo.



**15...b4!?**

The aim of White's previous move was 15...♙h8 16.♙d5, and after the inevitable swap White is slightly better. But the bizarre 15...♙f8!? 16.♙xf6 b4!, suggested by Hungarian Dragon experts Schneider and Sapi, may be worth considering.

**16.hxg7!?**

Very bad? Is 16.axb4? in view of 16...♙a1+ 17.♙b1 ♙a2, while 16.♙d5? ♙xd5 17.exd5 ♙f8 is also very good for Black. A better option is 16.♙b5!?, after 16...♙xb5 17.♙xb5 ♙b8 18.hxg7 bxa3 19.♙d3 the position is unclear.

**16...bxa3 17.♙h6!?**

An obvious move. What can Black do against the threat 18.♙xf6 and 19.♙xh7 mate? But 17.♙b5!? was another possibility now: 17...♙xb5 18.♙xb5 ♙xb5 19.♙d3, transposing to the comment to move 16.

**17...♙xb2+ 18.♙d2 ♙xg4!**

And White is brought back to earth with a bang!

**19.♙xf6**

After 19.fxg4 e5! it's all over.

**19...♙h5!**

The threat of mate on h7 has gone. Now it's Black's turn on the other side. Suddenly White is beyond saving.

**20.♙d4**

Other moves won't solve White's problems either, e.g. 20.♙h3 exf6 21.♙xc8 ♙xc8 22.♙c3 ♙b4, or 20.♙h5 ♙xh5 21.♙xh5 gxh5, or 20.♙d3 (maybe his toughest defence) 20...b1♙ 21.♙xb1 ♙xb1 22.♙xb1 exf6 23.c4 f5! 24.♙c3 ♙c5, and White's position remains very awkward – Black has at least good compensation for his piece.

**20...e5! 21.♙xh5 gxh5 22.♙g5 ♙b4 23.♙d3 ♙xd4 24.♙d5 ♙f2+ 25.♙e2 ♙xc2+! 26.♙xc2 ♙xe2+ 27.♙c3 ♙xf3+ 28.♙c4**

Or 28.♙d2 ♙xd1+ 29.♙xd1 b1♙++.

**28...♙b3+**

White resigned.

SI 17.8

□ Ostermeyer  
■ Sosonko

Mannheim 1975

1.e4 c5 2.♁f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♁xd4  
♁f6 5.♁c3 g6 6.♁e3 ♁g7 7.f3 ♁c6  
8.♁d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 ♁xd4 10.♁xd4 ♁e6  
11.♁b1 ♁c7

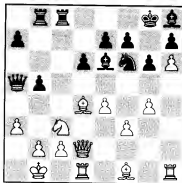
The point of 11.♁b1 is that 11...♁a5? is met strongly by 12.♁d5!; after 12...♁xd2 White has the intermediate move 13.♁xe7+, winning a pawn.

12.g4 ♁fc8 13.h4 ♁a5 14.a3

For the alternative 14.♁g5, see the game Ernst-Van de Mortel.

14...♁a8 15.h5 b5 16.h6

White cannot really continue his attack, as 16.hxg6 hxg6 17.♁h2? is met simply by 17...b4 – the black attack rolls on and White cannot harm the black king. But the liquidation 16.♁d5 ♁xd2 17.♁xd2 ♁xd5 18.♁xg7 ♁xg7 19.exd5 leads to an equal position.  
16...♁h8



17.♁xf6?

This is refuted. 17.g5?! is less good as well, as Black can react strongly with 17...b4!, e.g. 18.♁b5 (bad is 18.gxf6? bxc3 19.♁xc3 ♁xc3 20.fxe7 ♁xb2+!) 18...♁a4 19.gxf6 bxa3 20.b3 (20.b4 ♁a2+) 20...♁xb3!, with good

chances for Black. With 17.♁d5! could still have pulled the emergency brake; after 17...♁xd2 18.♁xd2 he still has a quite playable position.

17...♁xf6 18.♁d5 b4!

White had intended 18...♁xd2? 19.♁xf6+ exf6 20.♁xd2, of course, and he is positionally winning. But the text gives Black a lightning attack.

19.axb4

19.♁xb4 is met by 19...♁c3! 20.bxc3 ♁xa3, and after 19.♁xf6+ exf6 White has no defence against 20...♁a4.

19...♁a4 20.b5

Or 20.c3 ♁xd5 21.exd5 ♁xc3 22.bxc3 ♁b3+.

20...♁xd5 21.exd5 a6!

White resigned. There's no remedy against 22...axb5 and 23...♁a8.

SI 17.8

□ Ernst, Sipke  
■ Van de Mortel

Groningen 1995

1.e4 c5 2.♁f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♁xd4  
♁f6 5.♁c3 g6 6.♁e3 ♁g7 7.f3 0-0  
8.♁d2 ♁c6 9.0-0-0 ♁xd4 10.♁xd4 ♁e6  
11.♁b1 ♁c7 12.g4 ♁fc8 13.h4 ♁a5  
14.♁g5 ♁c7

The endgame after 14...♁g5?! 15.hxg5 ♁d7 16.♁xg7 ♁xg7 17.♁h4 is good for White.

15.♁d2

After 15.h5?! h6 16.♁d2 g5 the kingside remains closed.

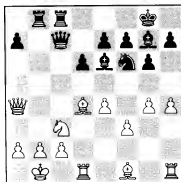
15...♁a5 16.♁g5 b5!?

Rather than accepting move repetition, Black sacrifices a pawn.

17.♁xb5

This is forced, really, as 17.h5? is refuted by 17...♁xc3! 18.♁xc3 ♁xa2+ 19.♁c1 b4 20.♁d4 (20.♁xb4 ♁xe4!) 20...♁xg4! 21.♁xf6 21.fxg4 ♁xe4 is also curtains) 21...♁xf6 22.♁xg4 ♁c3!, and White is mated.

17...♁c7 18.♁a4 ♁ab8



19.♁a6

Now things look bad for White, but it is not very clear what else he should play. After 19.h5? ♁d7 20.♁b5 ♁b7 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.♁xa7 ♁xb5 Black wins a piece, while after 19.♁b5 ♁xe4!? 20.fxe4? (20.♁xg7!? looks like a tougher nut to crack) 20...♁xd4 21.♁xd4 a6 22.♁xa6 ♁a8 23.♁c6 ♁b8 White loses his queen! 19.♁xa7 ♁b7 20.♁a4 ♁d7 21.♁a3 e5 22.♁a6 exd4 23.♁b7 ♁xb7 24.♁xd4 ♁xe4! 25.♁xe4 ♁xd4 26.♁xd6 ♁xb2! 27.♁xb2 ♁xf3 should also favour Black; the white king is not very safe and the white pieces are scattered across the board. 19.♁a1 is strongly met by 19...♁b7!?, e.g. 20.♁b1 ♁b4! 21.♁xb4 ♁xb4 22.♁e3 (or 22.♁xa7 ♁xe4! 23.♁xe4 ♁xc2, with dire threats) 22...♁xe4!, with winning threats. [These lines are taken from Chris Ward's extensive analysis in his book *Winning with the Sicilian Dragon* 2. A warning for the reader: Ward emphatically calls his variations just 'a starting-point for your own investigations'!]

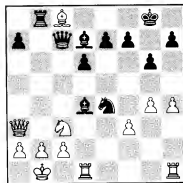
19...♁d7 20.♁a3

After 20.♁b5 ♁xb5 21.♁xb5 ♁xb5! 22.♁xb5 ♁xc2+ 23.♁a1 ♁xe4 24.fxe4 (24.♁xg7 ♁f2) 24...♁xd4 Black has good compensation for the exchange.

20...♁xe4 21.♁xc8?!

This is too much for the white position. It was

time to go for an equal endgame with 21.fxe4 ♁xd4 22.♁xd4 ♁xc3 23.♁xc3 ♁xc3 24.e5!.  
21...♁xd4



22.fxe4

And here 22.♁xc4 (or even 22.♁d5) 22...♁xb2 23.♁xb2 ♁xb2+ 24.♁xb2 ♁b8+! is also good for Black; 25.♁c1 ♁xc8.

22...♁xc3 23.♁xd7 ♁xb2 24.♁a4

After 24.♁xb2 ♁xb2+ 25.♁xb2 ♁xd7 the endgame, with all these loose pawns, looks suspiciously bad for White.

24...♁e5+ 25.♁b5

Or 25.♁c1 ♁f4+ 26.♁d2 ♁c3.

25...♁c3 26.♁c1 a6 27.♁df1 ♁xb5

28.♁d1

Otherwise 26...♁b1+, and mate.

28...♁e3 29.♁d4

Instead of resigning.

29...♁b1

Mate.

SI 17.9

□ Evans  
■ Zuckerman

New York 1966/67

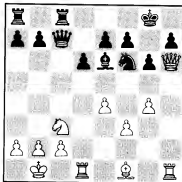
1.e4 c5 2.♁f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♁xd4  
♁f6 5.♁c3 g6 6.♁e3 ♁c6 7.f3 ♁g7  
8.♁d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 ♁xd4 10.♁xd4 ♁e6

**11.♖b1 ♖c7 12.h4 ♜fc8**

12...h5?! cannot prevent the h-file from being opened, as White plays 13.g4! hxg4 14.h5!, and the white attack rolls on. There is remarkably little theory about this.

**13.h5 ♘h5?**

This is a fatal error. Stronger is 13...♖a5 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.a3 ♖ab8 16.♔d3 ♘c4!, and Black has counterplay. The liquidation 17.♘xf6 ♘xf6 18.♔d5 ♖xd2 19.♗xf6+ yields White no advantage: 19...♔g7! 20.♔h5+ gxh5 21.♚xd2 ♘xd3 22.♘d3 ♔g6, with a roughly equal endgame. Van der Wiel-Reinderman, Dutch championship 1995.

**14.♙xg7 ♙xg7 15.g4 ♔f6 16.♖h6+ ♔g8****17.e5!**

An important pawn sacrifice. ♔d3 will need a free diagonal.

**17...dxe5 18.g5 ♘h5 19.♔d3!**

19.♚h5! gxh5 20.♔d3 leads to the same outcome.

**19...e4**

This can't save Black, nor can 19...f5 20.♚h5 gxh5 21.♖e6+.

**20.♚h5 gxh5 21.♗xe4 ♖f4**

Or 21...♙f5 22.♗f6+, and mate.

**22.♗f6+! exf6 23.♚xh7+ ♔h8 24.♙f5+ ♔g8 25.♖h7+ ♔f8 26.♖h8+**

Black resigned in view of 26...♔e7 27.gxf6 mate.

**SI 18.4**

□ Karpov

■ Gik

Moscow 1968

**1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4**

♔f6 5.♔c3 g6 6.♘e3 ♔g7 7.f3 0-0

8.♘c4 ♔c6 9.♖d2 ♖a5 10.0-0-0 ♔d7

11.h4 ♔e5 12.♔b3 ♜fc8 13.h5 ♘h5

14.♔h6 ♘h6

The theory books give the spectacular line 14...♔d3+!? 15.♖b1 (15.♖xd3 ♘h6+; 15.cxd3 ♘xd4) 15...♔xb2! 16.♗xb2 ♘h6 17.♖xh6 ♚xc3! 18.g4 ♔f6. Black has a quite playable position, e.g. 19.e5 ♚xb3+! 20.axb3 dxe5 21.♔e2 ♘e6, with compensation for the exchange.

**15.♖xh6 ♚xc3!**

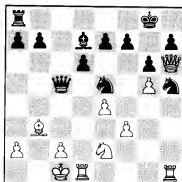
The standard exchange sacrifice in this kind of position.

**16.bxc3 ♖xc3?!**

But this is less good. Better moves are 16...♚c8!? and 16...♔f6!?. For the former move, see the game Orlov-Golubev.

**17.♔e2 ♖c5 18.g4 ♔f6**

18...g5? 19.fg4 ♔g4 fails to 20.♙f1!

**19.g4 ♔h5****20.♚h5!**

And this is a standard exchange sacrifice on White's part!

The knight move 20.♔g3?! looks strong, but then 20...♔g4! is a good reply for Black, e.g. 21.♙f5 (21.fxg4? ♔xg4 loses the queen!) 21...♔xf5 22.exf5 ♔c4 23.♘xc4 ♖xc4 24.♚h5 ♖f4+ 25.♖b1 gxh5, with advantage for Black, Yeo-D'Costa, St.Helier 1999.

**20...gxh5 21.♚h1 ♖e3+ 22.♖b1 ♖xf3**

After 22...♖xc2 23.♖h5 White has a simple win: 23...e6 24.♖xh7+ ♔f8 25.♖h8+ ♔e7 26.♖f6+, and Black will soon be mated.

**23.♚h5 e6?**

Now White can win by force. More stubborn is 23...♔g6, when Golubev has indicated the line 24.♖xh7+ ♔f8 25.♚h1! e6 26.♔d4 ♖f4 (if 26...♖xe4?, then 27.♙f1 wins) 27.♔f5! ♖e5 28.♔xd6! ♖g7 (or 28...♖d6 29.♙f1 ♘e8 30.♖xg6, with advantage) 29.♔xb7. White is better, but there is still a long way to go.

**24.g6! ♔xg6**

Or 24...fxg6 25.♖xh7+ ♔f8 26.♖h8+ ♔c7 27.♚h7+.

**25.♖xh7+ ♔f8 26.♙f5! ♖xb3+**

The only way, Karpov finishes his opponent off smoothly in the way we are accustomed to seeing from him.

**27.axb3 exf5 28.♔f4! ♔f8**

Or 28...♔xf4 29.♖h8+.

**29.♖h6+ ♔e8 30.♔xg6 fxg6 31.♖xg6+**

♔e7 32.♖g5+ ♔e8 33.exf5 ♚c8

**34.♖g8+ ♔e7 35.♖g7+ ♔d8 36.f6**

Black resigned.

**SI 18.5**

□ Orlov

■ Golubev

Odessa 1982

**1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4**

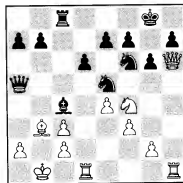
♔f6 5.♔c3 g6 6.♘e3 ♔g7 7.f3 0-0

8.♖d2 ♔c6 9.♘c4 ♔d7 10.h4 ♚c8

11.♔b3 ♔e5 12.h5 ♘h5 13.0-0-0 ♖a5

**14.♔h6 ♚xc3! 15.bxc3 ♘h6 16.♖xh6 ♚c8!?**

For the weaker 16...♖xc3?!, see the game Karpov-Gik.

**17.♔e2 ♔f6 18.♖b1 ♔b5 19.♔f4 ♘c4****20.g4!**

Less good is 20.♔d5?! ♘xd5 21.♘d5 (21.♘d5 ♖xc3 is also good for Black) 21...e6 22.♔b3 ♖a3 23.♖g5 ♔g7 24.♖h6+ ♔g8 25.♖c1 ♖xc1+ 26.♖xc1 ♚c6, with good play for Black, even though he is an exchange down, Rudyov-Golubev, Odessa 1983. The same goes for 20.♔h3?! ♖xc3! 21.♖d2 ♖xd2 22.♘d2 h5 23.♔f2 b5 24.♔d3 ♔fd7, Pankov-Golubev, Soviet Union 1985.

**20...♖xc3**

20...♔f3? is bad: 21.♘c4 ♚xc4 22.♔d5! ♚xc4 23.♔xf6+ exf6 24.♖xh7+ ♔f8 25.♚xd3 ♔fd7, and White wins, Schulze-Roth, correspondence game 1982.

**21.g5**

White has no choice but to accept the draw: 21.♔d5? is bad in view of 21...♘d5 22.♘d5 ♖xf3 23.g5 ♔h5 24.♙g1 ♔g4 25.♙f5 ♖xf5 26.exf5 ♘h6 27.gxh6 ♔f8, with a winning position for Black, Boeykens-Le Quang, Belgium 1995.

**21...♘xb3 22.cxb3 ♖c2+**

Draw.

## SI 18.5

- Tal  
 Wade

Palma de Mallorca 1966

1.e4 c5 2.f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♟c3 g6 6.♟e3 ♟g7 7.f3 ♟c6  
 8.♗d2 0-0 9.♟c4 ♟d7 10.h4 ♟c8  
 11.♟b3 ♗a5 12.h5 ♟xh5 13.g4 ♟f6  
 14.0-0-0 ♟e5 15.♟h6 ♟xh6

15...♟xc3!?, without taking on h6, is another possibility.

16.♟xh6!?

After 16.♟xh6 Black would surely also have played 16...♟xc3.

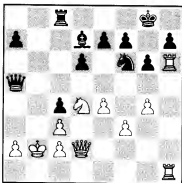
16...♟xc3!? 17.bxc3

Practice has shown that the endgame after the queen swap 17.♗xc3 ♗xc3 18.bxc3 is good for Black. He has at least a pawn for the exchange, and the white pawn formation is badly weakened.

17...♟c8 18.♟b2 b5?

This is bad. As it turns out, White needs only a few moves to crash through Black's king-side defences. Correct is 18...♗b6!, with the threat 19...♟c4+, and move repetition is looming: 19.♟c1 ♗c5 20.♟b2.

19.♟dh1 ♟c4+ 20.♟xc4 bxc4



21.♟xh7! ♟xh7

21...♟b8+ is simply met by 22.♟b3.

22.♗h6 e6

22...e5 23.g5 or 22...♗e5 23.♗xh7+ ♟f8  
 24.f4 ♗g7 25.♗h4 is also hopeless.

23.f4! e5

Or 23...♟b8+ 24.♟c1 ♗xc3 25.♗xh7+ ♟f8  
 26.♗h8+ ♟e7 27.♟f5+, winning the queen!

24.g5! ♟e8

Or 24...exd4 25.♗xh7+ ♟f8 26.♗h8+ ♟e7  
 27.♗f6+, and mate.

25.♟e6!

A nice move to wrap it up. Black resigned in view of 25...fxe6 26.♗xh7+ ♟f8 27.♗h8+ ♟e7 28.♟h7+ ♟f7 29.♗f6+.

## SI 18.6

- Hracek  
 Glienke

Pardubice 1999

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♟c3 g6 6.♟e3 ♟g7 7.f3 0-0  
 8.♗d2 ♟c6 9.♟c4 ♟d7 10.0-0-0 ♟e8  
 11.♟b3 ♟e5 12.♟b1!?

A useful waiting move, the main point of which is revealed on move 16.

12...♟d4

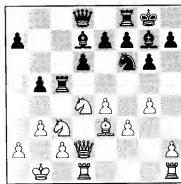
A possible black waiting move is 12...♟e8, when White still goes 13.h4, and White's king move seems to have been more useful than Black's rook move.

13.♟xc4 ♟xc4 14.g4 b5?!

With 14...♗c7 can avoid the white trick, but then White plays 15.g5 ♟h5 16.♟d5 ♗d8 17.♟e2, and he is better.

15.b3! ♟c5

Also unpleasant for Black is 15...♟c8 16.♟dxh5. An example is Bologan-A.Fedorov, Calcutta 1999: 16...♗a5 17.a4 a6 18.♟d5! ♗xd2 19.♟xe7+ ♟h8 20.♟xd2 ♟c8 21.♟xg6+ fxg6 22.♟xd6 ♟c6 23.♟c5 ♟c6 24.a4 ♟b8 25.♟d6 ♟xd6 26.♟xd6, with advantage for White.



16.♟e6!

Oops! Black loses the exchange. The database shows quite a few games in which Black falls for this trick.

16...fxe6 17.♟xc5 dxc5

After 17...♗c7 18.♟d4 ♟c8 19.g5 ♟h5 20.♟xg7 ♟xg7 21.♟e2 Black had no compensation for the exchange either. Lobron-Zhu Chen, Bad Homburg 1998.

18.e5

The point of the combination. White wins back a piece, after which he remains an exchange up.

18...♗b8

Or 18...♟d5 19.♟xd5 exd5 20.♗xd5+.

19.exf6 ♟xf6 20.♗xd7 ♟xc3

Does Black still have compensation?

21.♗xe6+ ♟g7 22.♗xe7+ ♟f7 23.♗xc5

♟c7 24.♗e3 b4 25.♟d3

No, not a bit!

25...♗b5 26.♟hd1 ♟f6 27.♗e6

Black resigned.

## SI 18.7

- Istratescu  
 Milu

Bucharest 1994

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♟c3 g6 6.♟e3 ♟g7 7.f3 0-0

8.♗d2 ♟c6 9.♟c4 ♟d7 10.0-0-0 ♟e5

11.♟b3 ♟c8 12.h4 ♟c4 13.♟xc4 ♟xc4

14.h5 ♟xh5 15.g4 ♟f6 16.♟h6

One of the many possibilities White has here.

For some other moves, see the next two games.

16...♟xe6!

The correct reply. In contrast to, for example, the game Tal-Wade (SI 18.5) 16...♟xh6?

17.♗xh6 ♟xc3 is not good in this position in view of 18.g5! ♟h5 19.♟xh5 gxf5 20.♟h1 ♗c8 21.♟xh5 ♟f5 22.exf5 ♟xc2+ 23.♟xc2 ♗xf5 24.g6. We'll see this same theme cropping up again in this game.

17.♗e3!?

Other moves are less good: 17.fxex4! ♟xd4

18.♗h2 ♟xd1+ 19.♟xd1 ♟e5, or 17.♟xe4?!

♟xd4 18.♗h2 ♟e5 19.♗h4 ♟xd1+ 20.♟xd1

f5!, or 17.♗h2! ♟e5! 18.f4 ♟xd4 19.♟xd4

♟xd4 20.♟g7 ♟d1+! 21.♟xd1 ♟xg7

22.♗xh7+ ♟f6 23.g5+ ♟e6 24.♗h3+ ♟d5

25.♗d3+ ♟e6 26.♗xe4+ ♟e7 – in all cases

with the better prospects for Black.

17...♟xc3!

Now this exchange sacrifice is suddenly possible again! Except now it is forced, as 17...♟f6?

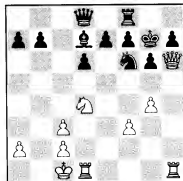
is bad in view of 18.♟xg7 ♟xg7 19.♗h6+ ♟g8

20.♟d5, with a winning attack.

18.bxc3 ♟f6 19.♟xg7 ♟xg7 20.♗h6+

Other possibilities here are 20.♟h2 and

20.♟h4, and the outcome of the complications is unclear.



### 20...♘g8?

This is the wrong place for the king. Correct is 20...♘h8; after 21.♔e2 ♘g8 the chances in this position are probably equal.

The way Black is executed in the game speaks for itself.

**21.g5 ♖h5 22.♙h5! gxf5 23.♙h1 ♖c8 24.♙h5 ♙f5 25.♔xf5 ♙xf5 26.g6!**  
♙xg6 27.♙g5  
Black resigned.

### SI 18.7

#### □ Karpov

#### ■ Kortchnov

Second match game, Moscow 1974

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♗f6 5.♔c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 ♖c6 8.♙d2 0-0 9.♙c4 ♙d7 10.h4 ♙c8 11.♙b3 ♖e5 12.0-0 ♖c4 13.♙xc4 ♙xc4 14.h5 ♖xh5 15.g4 ♖f6 16.♙de2 ♙a5**

Tarjan's 16...♙e8! is sometimes indicated as stronger. After 17.♙b6 Black can play 17...♙h8, while 17.e5 is met by 17...♔xg4! 18.fxg4 ♙xg4. But there is probably nothing badly wrong with the text.

#### 17.♙h6 ♙xh6

After 17...♙e6 White could play 18.♙xg7 ♙xg7 19.♙h6+ ♙g8 20.♙d5! ♙xd5 21.♔xd5 ♙e8 22.♔ef4!, which looks strong, but the exchange sacrifice 17...♙h8! 18.♙xf8 ♙xf8 may be another idea. In very sharp variations like these material is often not the most important consideration.

#### 18.♙xh6 ♙fc8 19.♙d3

White still has to be careful! After 19.g5! ♔h5 20.♔g3 Black has the possibility of 20...♙c3!

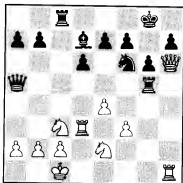
#### 19...♙c3?

This is refuted with exceptional beauty and elegance. The correct move is 19...♙e6!, with as a possible continuation: 20.g5 ♔h5 21.♔g3

♙e5 22.♙h5 (after 22.♔h5 gxf5 23.♙xh5 ♙f8 White doesn't get any further) 22...gxf5 23.♔h5 ♙xc3! 24.bxc3 ♙xc3 25.f4 (25.♔f6+ is interesting but not winning: 25...exf6-26.gxf6 ♙g3 27.♙c3 ♙g1+ 28.♙b2 ♙b6+ 29.♙b3 (otherwise it's perpetual check) 29...♙d4+ 30.♙c1 ♙g1+ 31.♙d2 ♙xb3 32.axb3 ♙g6, and the endgame will be drawn) 25...♙c2+ 26.♙xc2 ♙e5+, and a draw was agreed, since Black will have perpetual check. Bangiev-Nesis, correspondence game 1974/76.

#### 20.g5! ♙xg5

20...♔h5 is met by 21.♔f4! ♙xg5 22.♔d5!, and the king's rook is eliminated.



#### 21.♙d5! ♙xd5 22.♔xd5 ♙e8

Not, of course, 22...♔xd5 in view of 23.♙xh7+, and mate on the next move.

#### 23.♔ef4!

This is far stronger than 23.♔xf6+! exf6 24.♙xh7+ ♙f8, and it is not clear how White's attack should proceed.

#### 23...♙c6

23...♙e6 is met by 24.♔x6 fxe6 25.♔xf6+ exf6 26.♙xh7+ ♙f8 27.♙d7!, and wins.

#### 24.e5!

A real beauty! 24.♔xf6+! exf6 25.♔h5 at once is not clear after 25...♙g5+ 26.♙xg5 fxg5 27.♔f6+ ♙g7.

#### 24...♙xd5

Now, after 24...♙e5, the idea of 25.♔xf6+ exf6 26.♔h5 *does*: 26...gxf5 27.♙g1+, and mate. The text can no longer save Black either.

**25.exf6 exf6 26.♙xh7+ ♙f8 27.♙h8+**  
Black resigned. After 27...♙e7 28.♔xd5+ it's all over.

### SI 18.7

#### □ Ristic

#### ■ Marasescu

Istanbul 1975

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♗f6 5.♔c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 ♖c6 8.♙d2 0-0 9.♙c4 ♙d7 10.0-0 ♙c8 11.♙b3 ♖e5 12.h4 ♖c4 13.♙xc4 ♙xc4 14.h5 ♖xh5 15.g4 ♖f6 16.♙d5**

A logical move in itself: White wants to swap the f6 knight, an important link in Black's defence. But this idea fails to yield the desired result.

#### 16...♔xd5

16...♙e6 has also been played in several games. After 17.♔xf6+ ♙xf6 18.♙h2 ♙fc8 19.♙xh7+ ♙f8 Black holds, e.g. 20.♙b1 e5 21.♔f5 gxf5 22.gxf5 ♙xc2 23.♙h1 (but not 23.♙d1! in view of 23...♙xf5! 24.exf5 ♙xb2+) 23...♙e2 (now 23...♙xf5? won't work: 24.exf5 ♙xb2+ 25.♙xb2 e4+ 26.♙d4) 24.♙g5 ♙c2, and a draw. Lubinin-Golubev, correspondence game 1987 – Black has perpetual check.

#### 17.exd5 ♙c7

17...♙b6! has also been played here, but this is less good: 18.b3 ♙c5 19.♙h2 (19.♙xh7! is also strong: 19...♙xh7 20.♙h2+ ♙g8 21.♙h1, e.g. 21...♙fc8 22.♙h7+ ♙f8 23.♙h6 ♙xc2+ 24.♔xc2 ♙xc2+ 25.♙xc2 ♙f2+ 26.♙c1 ♙b2+ 27.♙d1 ♙a1+ 28.♙e2 ♙b2+ 29.♙f1, with advantage) 19...h5 20.gxh5 ♙fc8 21.♙b1!, with winning threats.

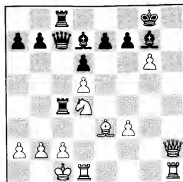
#### 18.♙h2 h5

This is forced, as 18...♙c8? is met by 19.♙xh7+

♙f8 20.♙h6 ♙xc2+ 21.♙b1 ♙xb2+ 22.♙xb2 ♙c2+ (or 22...♙b6+ 23.♙a1) 23.♙a1 ♙c3+ 24.♙b1 ♙b4+ 25.♔b3, and wins. Thus an analysis by Sapi and A. Schneider.

#### 19.gxf5 ♙c8 20.hxg6

After 20.♙b1 ♙f5! 21.♔xf5 ♙xc2 22.♔xe7+ ♙xc7 23.♙d2 ♙xd2 24.♙xd2 ♙c5 Black is excellent, but 20.♙d2 may be a possibility, although after 20...♙a5 things are anything but clear.



#### 20...fxg6!

Here Black should have played the magic move 20...♙f5! 21.gxf7+ (21.♔xf5? is met by 21...♙xc2+ 22.♙b1 ♙xb2+!) 21...♙xf7 22.♙d1 ♙xc2+ 23.♔xc2 ♙xb2+! 24.♙d1 ♙xc2+ 25.♙e1 ♙a5+ 26.♙f2 ♙xd5 27.♙h5+ ♙xh5 28.♙xh5 a6, with a good endgame for Black, Morgado-Valvo, correspondence game 1979.

#### 21.♙h7+?

White misses his last chance to usher his king to safety: 21.♙b1!. After the text White is lost.

#### 21...♙f7 22.♙h6

Now 22.♙b1 is no longer possible because of 22...♙h8.

#### 22...♙xc2+ 23.♙b1 ♙xb2+!

The Dragon is awash with this type of combination. The king position is dismantled.

#### 24.♙xb2 ♙c3+ 25.♙b1 ♙f5+

White resigned, as 26.♔xf5 ♙b2 is mate.

## Sl 18.8

□ Piket  
■ Sosonko

Eindhoven 1993

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xc4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♗c6  
8.♗d2 0-0 9.♗c4 ♗d7 10.h4 ♗c8  
11.♗b3 ♗e5 12.0-0-0 ♗c4 13.♗xc4  
♗xc4 14.g4 ♗c7

Logical enough; Black puts all his major pieces on the c-file.

15.h5 ♗c8 16.hxg6 fxg6

16...hxg6? is bad, as 17.♗h6 ♗h8 is met by the thematic 18.♗f8! ♗x8 19.♗xh8+! ♗xh8 20.♗h6+ ♗g8 21.♗d5! ♗xd5 22.♗h1, Black will be mated. Something to remember!

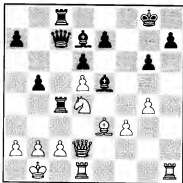
17.♗b1!

This robs the attack on the kingside of a tempo, but the king is safer on b1 than on c1. Just a sample line: 17.♗h2?! ♗xc3! 18.bxc3 ♗xc3 19.♗e2 ♗a4! 20.♗d3 (20.♗b1? is very bad: 20...♗xe4! 21.fxex4 ♗xd4 22.♗xd4 ♗xc2+ 23.♗c1 ♗xd1+) 20...♗a1+ 21.♗d2 ♗xa2 22.♗a1 ♗c4, with a pleasant endgame for Black.

17...b5 18.♗d5

Also a logical move; the black ♗f6 is important for the defence and so has to be exchanged.

18...♗xd5 19.exd5 ♗e5!



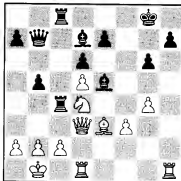
To prevent 20.♗h2. This is how Black went under quickly in Beliavsky-Gufeld, Novosibirsk 1976: 19...♗b7? 20.♗h2 ♗f7 21.♗f4+ ♗g8 22.♗xh7! ♗xd5 (22...♗xh7 23.♗f7 and ♗h1, mate) 23.♗xg7+! ♗xg7 24.♗f5+ ♗xf5 25.♗h6+ ♗f7 26.♗xd5 ♗xc2+ 27.♗a1 b4 28.b3 ♗c3 29.♗d2 a5 30.♗g5 ♗g8 31.♗xc2! ♗xc2 32.♗xg6+ ♗f8 33.♗h6 mate.

20.♗d3

Black meets 20.f4? with 20...♗xd4 21.♗xd4 ♗xc2 22.♗e3 ♗xg4, and after 20.f2?! ♗d8 21.♗h4 Black can strengthen his position with 21...♗f7.

20...♗b7

After 20...♗f8?! 21.♗h6?! ♗f7 22.♗e6 ♗xe6 23.dxe6 ♗f6 24.♗d1 ♗b4 25.♗c1 ♗c4 26.♗xh7 ♗xc6 27.f4 ♗g7 28.b3 a draw was agreed in an earlier game Piket-Sosonko, Dutch championship 1992. According to the Hungarian brothers I. and Z. Almási, however, 21.♗xh7! ♗xh7 22.♗h1+ is stronger: 22...♗g7 23.♗h6+ ♗f7 24.♗e6 ♗xe6 25.dxe6 ♗xe6 26.♗xf8 ♗f7 27.♗h6, with the better prospects for White. The plan is ♗c1 and ♗h7.



21.♗xh7! ♗xh7 22.♗h1+ ♗g7 23.♗h6 ♗g8 24.♗xg6+ ♗h8?

This loses! 24...♗f7?! 25.♗e6! ♗xg6 26.♗d8+ ♗g7 27.♗xb7, with two extra pawns, is also good for White, but after 24...♗f8! Black holds. White has to go for

perpetual check with 25.♗xg8+ (25.♗h6+? ♗f7 26.♗c6 won't work now: 26...♗xg6 27.♗d8+ ♗e8 28.♗xb7 ♗xh6) 25...♗xg8 26.♗xg6+ ♗h8 27.♗h6+ ♗g8 28.♗xg6+.

25.♗h6+! ♗g7 26.♗e6+! ♗xe6 27.dxe6 ♗f8 28.♗f5+ ♗f6 29.♗h5

And Black resigned, as mate cannot be prevented.

## Sl 18.9

□ Gobet  
■ Kudrin

Bern 1988

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xc4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♗c6  
8.♗d2 0-0 9.♗c4 ♗d7 10.0-0-0 ♗c8  
11.♗b3 ♗e5 12.h4 h5

Kudrin's own move. Black stops the white advance h4-h5.

13.♗h6 ♗xh6

A well-known theme. Black allows the white queen 'free' access to h6, but this takes it pretty far away from the events on the other side of the board. Other moves here are 13...♗c4 and 13...a5.

14.♗xh6 ♗xc3!

This exchange sacrifice should look pretty familiar by now.

15.bxc3 ♗c7

Also possible is 15...♗a5, e.g. 16.♗b1 ♗c8 17.g4 ♗c4 18.♗xc4 ♗xc4 19.♗e2 ♗e6 20.gxh5? (20.♗d5!?) 20...♗xe4! 21.♗c1 (or 21.fxex4 ♗xa2+ 22.♗c1 ♗xe4) 21...♗a4 22.hxg6 ♗xa2+ 23.♗b2 ♗a3 24.♗e2 ♗b3!, and White resigned, Toparia-Dushkin, correspondence game 1987/88.

16.♗b1?

After 16.♗e2 Black can continue 16...♗b5 or 16...a5.

16...♗c8!

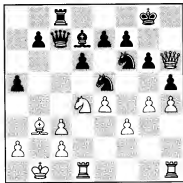
After 16...♗xc3?! 17.♗e2 ♗c5 18.g4! White has a strong attack, while 16...a5?! 17.f4 ♗g4 18.♗f5+ a4 19.fxex5 axb3 20.cxb3 ♗f2

21.e6!, as in Short-Olafsson, Wijk aan Zee 1987, and other games, favours White.

17.g4!

After 17.♗d2?! Black has the strong 17...a5, while 17.f4 ♗c4 18.♗d3 is also unclear.

17...a5



18.gxh5

White has two alternatives here: 18.♗f5! ♗xf5 19.gxf5 ♗xc3 20.fxg6 ♗c4, with an unclear position, and 18.g5! ♗e8 19.f4 a4 20.♗d5, which could be awkward for Black.

18...a4 19.♗d5

19.hxg6 axb3 20.gxf7+ ♗xf7 21.cxb3 ♗xc3 is unclear.

19...♗d5

Less good is 19...♗xh5! 20.f4!

20.exd5 ♗xc3 21.hxg6 ♗b4+

The most accurate move. The game Khalifman-Savchenko, Simferopol 1988, also ended in a draw after 21...fxg6?! 22.♗h1 ♗f5 23.♗xf5! ♗xc2+, but with 23.♗d2! White could have thrown a spanner in the works.

22.♗c1 fxg6 23.♗h1 ♗f5! 24.♗f5

Now 24.♗d2? was impossible, of course: 24...♗a3+ 25.♗b1 ♗c4.

24...♗a3+ 25.♗b1

White has to settle for a draw, as 25.♗d2? won't work: 25...♗xf3+ 26.♗e2 ♗xg1+ 27.♗xg1 ♗xc2+.

25...♗b4+ 26.♗c1 ♗a3+ 27.♗b1

Draw.

SI 18.12

□ Anderson  
■ Taylor

Correspondence game 1994

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4  
♞f6 5.♞c3 g6 6.♞e3 ♟g7 7.f3 ♞c6  
8.♞d2 0-0 9.♞c4 ♟d7 10.0-0 ♞c8  
11.♞b3 ♞e5 12.h4 h5 13.♞g5 ♞c5  
14.♞b1 b5 15.g4 a5

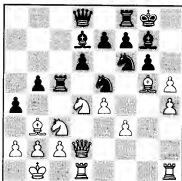
For 15...hxg4, see the game Lanka-Smirin.

16.gxh5

16.♞xf6 ♞xf6 17.gxh5 has also been tried here. You'll have to look it up in the theory books, because we won't go into it here.

16...a4

16...♞xh5 could be met by 17.♞d5 ♞e8 18.♞f4!?, with obscure complications in which White has good prospects.



17.h6

17.hxg6, 17.♞d5 and 17.♞xf7+ have also been played here; in all cases it is unclear what the complications will lead to.

17...♞h8 18.h7+ ♞xh7

Bad is 18...♞xh7?; after 19.h5 ♞xh5 20.♞xh5+ gxh5 21.♞h2 ♟g6 22.♞h1 ii is over.

19.♞d5 b4 20.♞e2 ♞xg5 21.hxg5 e6 22.♞f4

The game G.Garcia-Kudrin, Salamanca 1989, saw 22.♞f4 ♟g7 23.♞dx6 fxe6 24.♞xe6 ♞xe6 25.♞xc6+ ♟f7 26.f4 ♞e8 27.♞xd6 ♞xd6 28.♞xd6 ♟f8 29.♞a6, with an unclear endgame.

22...♟g7 23.♞h4 ♞e8 24.f4 exd5 25.f5! 25.fxe5?! dxe5 is good for Black.

25...f6

Forced; White was threatening 26.f6.

26.♞f4 fxe6

26...dxe4? is met by 27.♞h7+ ♟f8 28.♞h6!, and wins: 28...♞f5 29.♞xf5 gx5 30.gxf6, or 28...fxg5 29.♞xg6+.

27.♞h7+ ♟f8

27...♟f7? runs into 28.fxe6+, of course, and White wins.

28.♞f6+

The following sequence is forced.

28...♞xe6 29.fxe6 dxe4 30.♞f1+ ♟f3 31.♞xf3 exf3 32.♞xf3+ ♟f5 33.♞xf5+ gx5 34.♞h6!

Here a draw was agreed. After 35.♞xf5+ ♟g8 36.♞h7+ it's perpetual check.

SI 18.12

□ Lanka  
■ Smirin

Moscow 1989

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4  
♞f6 5.♞c3 g6 6.♞e3 ♟g7 7.f3 0-0  
8.♞d2 ♞c6 9.♞c4 ♟d7 10.h4 h5  
11.0-0 ♞e5 12.♞b3 ♞c8 13.♞g5 ♞c5  
14.♞b1 b5 15.g4 hxg4

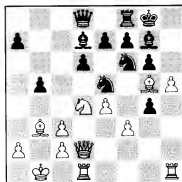
For the other move, 15...a5, see the game Anderson-Taylor.

16.h5 ♞xc3!

Material is unimportant! After 16...♞xh5 17.♞d5 ♞e8 18.♞xh5 gxh5 19.♞h2! White has excellent attacking chances, as was borne out in, for example, Karpov-Sznapiak, Dubai Olympiad 1986.

17.bxc3

After 17.♞xc3 ♞xh5 18.fxe6 ♞xg4 19.♞d7! ♞d7 the position isn't clear either. There is also 17.h6!?, which leads to obscure complications after 17...♞xf3 18.♞xf3 ♞xe4.



17...♞xf3!

Less good is 17...♞xh5?!, as 18.♞xh5! gxh5 19.♞h2 gives White good attacking chances.

18.♞xf3

With 18.♞e3! White can avoid the looming complications, but even then the position remains complicated.

18...♞xe4! 19.♞h2 ♞xc3+ 20.♞c1 ♞a5 Bad is 20...gx5? 21.hxg6 ♞e2+ 22.♞d2 ♞a5+ 23.♞e3 ♞c3+ 24.♞f2, and White wins.

21.hxg6

The position is chaotic. The text urges Black to hurry, as White is now threatening mate. Maybe 21.♞d4! ♟f5 22.h6 was an option, or 21.♞d3 ♟f5 22.h6 ♞a3+ 23.♞d2 ♞e4+ 24.♞d1 ♞c3 25.♞d4!?. Both continuations were suggested by Golubev, a great Dragon expert, in his monograph *Easy Guide to the Dragon* from 1999.

21...♞xa2+ 22.♞xa2 ♞a3+ 23.♞d2 ♞c3+ 24.♞c1

White settles for the draw, probably wisely. The position after 24.♞e2 ♞xf3+ 25.♞e1 ♞e4+ 26.♞d2 ♞d4+ (even 26...♞xg6!?) is an

option; Black has no fewer than five pawns for the rook, and the white king remains exposed. 24...♞a3+ 25.♞d2 ♞c3+ 26.♞c1 ♞a3+ Draw.

SI 18.15

□ Topalov  
■ Romero Holmes

Leon 1993

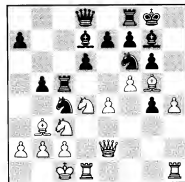
1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4  
♞f6 5.♞c3 g6 6.♞e3 ♟g7 7.f3 0-0  
8.♞d2 ♞c6 9.♞c4 ♟d7 10.h4 ♞e5  
11.♞b3 h5 12.0-0 ♞c8 13.♞g5 ♞c5  
14.g4! ♞xg4 15.f4

Many games, especially correspondence games, have been played with 15.♞xf6 and 15.h5. Correspondence players like these sharp lines, but even in the calm of one's study – and with the aid of computers these days! – it is utterly impossible to calculate everything.

15...♞c4 16.♞e2

The much-played alternative is 16.♞d3, while 16.♞xc4 ♞xc4 17.e5 is another possibility.

16...b5 17.f5



17.♞xb5 is met by 17...♞xb2! 18.♞xb2 ♞xb5 19.♞xb5 ♞xe4+, with unclear play.

17.h5 ♖xh5 18.f5 ♖a5 also leads to positions that are hard to assess.

### 17...♗b6?

This move was recommended in 1989 by the great Dragon experts Sapi and Schneider in their book about the Dragon with 9.♖c4, but their variation turns out to be wrong! 17...♗a5!?, 17...♖c8!? and 17...gxf5!?! is where better possibilities will have to be found.

### 18.h5!

Less good is 18.♖xf6?! ♖xf6 19.♗xg4 a5, and Black has counterplay.

### 18...♖xh5

18...gxf5 is met by 19.♖xf6 ♖xf6 20.♖xh5 ♖e5 21.♗h2, and White has a very dangerous attack that may already be unstoppable.

19.♗xg4 ♖xb2 20.♖xb2 ♖xc3 21.♖xc3 ♖c5+ 22.♖b2 ♖xd4+ 23.♖b1 ♖g7

All this can be found in Sapi and Schneider's book. They conclude that "Black has an attack", but this turns out to be untrue: White wins by force! 23...♖c3 24.♖xd4 ♖xd4 25.♖e3 ♗g7 26.♗xg6 ♗xg6 27.fxg6 ♖f6 28.♖h6 e6 29.♖xf8 ♗xf8 30.♖h8+ ♖g7 31.gxf7, by the way, also loses for Black: after 31...♖xf7 32.e5! dxe5 33.♖a8 the end-game is lost.



### 24.♖h6!

Quite simple, really!

### 24...♗c3

The point is that after 24...♖xh6 White wins with 25.♗xg6+.

### 25.♖xg7 ♗xg7 26.♖dg1

Black resigned.

### SI 18.16

#### □ Hodgson

#### ■ Paunovic

Telex London-Belgrade 1976

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 g6 6.♖e3 ♖g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♗d2 ♖c6 9.♖a4 ♖d7 10.0-0-0 ♗b8

This is a rather bizarre move, but it may be playable. Black puts all his money on the counterattack.

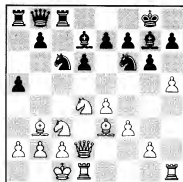
### 11.h4 ♖c8

Black could also have tried 11...b5!?, and after 12.♖dxb5 ♖c8 he will have compensation for the pawn. According to an analysis by the Russian analyst Vulfson, however, 12.♖b3!?! a5 13.♖d5 ♖xd5 14.♖xd5 ♖c8 15.h5 is good for White.

### 12.♖b3 a5

After 12...b5 White would have attacked at once with 13.h5!

### 13.h5!?



Another option was 13.a4!?, which is Golubev's suggestion.

### 13...♖xd4?!

This turns out to be a bad idea. Better is 13...a4 14.♖d5 ♖xh5 (14...e6 is met strongly by 15.hxg6!, e.g. 15...exd5 16.♖h6! fxg6 17.♖xg7 ♗xg7 18.♗h6+ ♖f7 19.♖xd5, with an attack) 15.g4 ♖f6 16.♖f5!?! gxf5 17.gxf5 ♖e5 18.♗g2 ♖h8 19.♖dg1 ♖g8 20.♖g5 ♗f8 21.♗h3 h6 22.♖xf6 exf6, with an unclear position. Thus an analysis by Tisdall.

### 14.♖xd4 a4 15.♖d5 e6

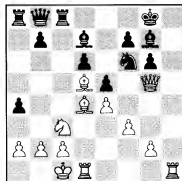
Winning a piece.... But it doesn't give Black much joy.

### 16.hxg6 hxg6

After 16...exd5 White plays 17.♖xd5, and wins, while 16...fxg6 is met by 17.♖xf6 ♖xf6 18.♗h6.

### 17.♗g5! e5

After 17...exd5 White had planned 18.♗xf6!.



### 18.♖h8+ ♖xh8

Or 18...♖xh8 19.♗xg6+ ♖g7 20.♗xf7+, and Black is mated.

### 19.♖xf7

Black resigned. There is no remedy against 20.♖h+.



# Scheveningen Variation

Black plays 2...d6 and 5...e6

SI 19.13

- Nisipeanu  
■ Dumitrescu

Baile Herculane 1994

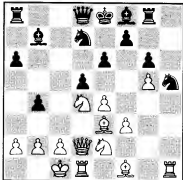
1.e4 c5 2.f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 e6 6.♗e3 a6 7.f3 ♗bd7 8.g4  
h6 9.h4 b5 10.♗g1 g6

10...♗b6 is also worth looking at, e.g. 11.g5  
♗d7 12.♗e2 hxg5 13.hxg5 g6 14.0-0-0 ♗c4  
15.♗f2 ♗b7, with an unclear position,  
Anand-Judit Polgar, Linares 1994.

11.g5 hxg5 12.hxg5 ♗h5 13.♗d2  
After 13.a4 b4?! 14.♗c6 ♗c7 15.♗xb4 ♗g7  
16.♗d3 ♗b8 17.♗e2 ♗c5 Black had counter-  
play for the pawn, Short-Kasparov, rapid  
game London 1987.

13...♗b7 14.0-0-0 b4 15.♗ce2 d5  
16.♗h1 ♗g8

16...dxe4?! is met strongly by 17.♗f4.



## 17.♗xh5!?

An earlier game Nisipeanu-Dumitrescu, Ru-  
mania 1994, saw 17.♗h3 ♗c5 18.♗f4 ♗xf4  
19.♗xf4 ♗d6 20.♗xd6 ♗xd6 21.♗b1 ♗b6  
22.♗f4 dxe4 23.fxe4 ♗d8, with unclear play.  
White had probably prepared the text at home.

## 17...gxh5 18.g6! ♗xg6

18...fxg6? is inferior, of course, in view of  
19.♗x6.

## 19.♗f4 ♗e5!?

Less good is 19...♗g8?! 20.exd5 e5 21.♗c6  
♗e7 22.♗xh5, with the point of 22...♗xc6  
23.dxc6 ♗xc6 24.♗xd7+! 19...♗h6?!  
20.exd5 e5 21.♗fe6! also yields White good  
prospects. 19...e5?! 20.♗xg6 exd4 21.♗g5,  
finally, also favours White. Thus an analysis  
by Nisipeanu.

## 20.exd5 ♗xd5 21.♗e1! ♗e7!?

Now Black slips up. Better is 21...♗a5!  
After 22.♗f2 ♗xf3 23.♗xf3 ♗xf3 24.♗d3  
♗g4 25.♗xg6 ♗g5+ 26.♗b1 ♗xg6 27.♗g2  
the position is unclear, according to Nisipeanu.

## 22.♗f5! ♗d7

After 22...exf5? 23.♗d5 ♗b7 24.♗g5 it's  
over. The other queen move, 22...♗b7, is met  
by 23.♗xd5 exd5 24.♗h3! (after 24.♗f4?!  
Black has the rejoinder 24...♗e6 25.♗e5 f6)  
24...♗e6 25.♗d4 ♗e7 26.♗g3, with excellent  
attacking play for White.

## 23.♗h3! f6?

This more or less clinches it. Relatively better  
was 23...0-0-0, although 24.♗xd5 exd5  
25.♗e7+ ♗xe7 26.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 27.♗f4 is  
still better for White.

24.♗xd5! exd5 25.♗xg6 ♗xg6 26.♗c5+  
♗d8 27.♗b6+  
Black resigned in view of 27...♗c8 28.♗d6+.

SI 19.14

- Perenyi  
■ Barczay

Hungary 1979

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 ♗f6 4.♗c3 cxd4  
5.♗xd4 a6 6.♗e3 e6 7.g4!?

This move has been played a lot over the last  
few decades. The present white player has  
popularised it, and the variation bears his  
name.

## 7...h6

An important alternative is 7...e5.

## 8.♗f3

For 8.f4, see the game Shirov-Kasparov.

## 8...♗bd7 9.♗h3 ♗c5

9...e5 10.♗f5 g6 is met by 11.g5! gx5  
12.exf5, with good prospects for White.

## 10.f3 e5

10...b5? is very risky, probably even losing:  
11.g5 ♗g8 12.g6 fxg6 13.0-0-0 e5 14.♗f5  
gx5 15.♗h5+ ♗d7 16.♗f7+, with a fierce  
attack, e.g. 16...♗e7 17.♗xb5a1! axb5  
18.♗xd6+! ♗xd6 19.♗d1+ ♗c6 20.♗d5+  
♗b6 21.♗xa8 ♗b7 22.♗d5+ ♗xd5 23.♗xd5.

11.♗b3 ♗e6 12.0-0-0! ♗xb3+ 13.axb3  
♗c8 14.♗d5! ♗xd5 15.exd5 ♗c7  
After 15...♗a5 16.g5 ♗d7 17.♗b1 White is  
also better.

## 16.c3 ♗a5

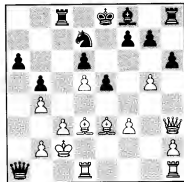
Threatening 17...♗xc3+, followed by  
perpetual check; but White has a simple refutation.  
17.♗c4! b5 18.g5 ♗d7 19.b4 ♗a4

No better is 19...♗a1+ 20.♗c2 ♗a4+ 21.♗b3  
♗xb4 22.♗h1, with threats like 23.♗a1, fol-  
lowed by 24.♗g4, winning the queen, and  
23.g6. After 19...♗c7 20.♗d3, too, things are  
looking grim for Black.

## 20.♗d3 ♗a1+

Or 20...♗xb4 21.♗b1 ♗a5 (21...♗xc3 won't  
work in view of 22.♗d2) 22.g6, and the white  
attack should strike home.

## 21.♗c2



## 21...♗a2?

This loses by force, but after 21...♗a4+  
22.♗b1 ♗xc3! 23.g6! ♗a3! 24.gxf7+ ♗d8  
25.bxa3 ♗b3+ 26.♗c1 ♗c3+ 27.♗c2  
♗xe3+ 28.♗b2 ♗b6 29.♗d3 White remains  
better. Thus Perenyi.

## 22.g6! ♗a4+ 23.♗b1 ♗xc3 24.♗c1!

Well spotted, although just 24.gxf7+ would  
win as well.

## 24...♗a3

Or 24...♗xc1+ 25.♗xc1 ♗d8 26.♗f5.

## 25.♗xd7!

Black resigned. He will be mated: 25...♗xd7  
26.♗f5+ ♗e8 27.♗c8+ ♗e7 28.♗e7+ ♗e8  
29.gxf7+ ♗d8 30.♗d7+ ♗c8 31.♗c1+ ♗b8  
32.♗a7+ ♗a8 33.♗c8!

SI 19.14

- Shirov  
■ Kasparov

Linares 1998

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗e3 e6 7.g4 h6 8.f4 e5

Another option is 8...♗c6, when White can

reply 9.h3, 9.♖f3 or 9.g5.

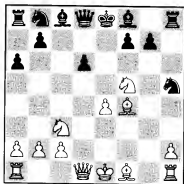
### 9.♗f5 h5!?

This is probably stronger than 9...♗c6, when White can go 10.♖f3 g6 11.0-0-0! 11...gx f5 12.ex f5 e4 13.♗e4 ♗e4 14.♖e4+ ♖e7 15.♖d3 ♗g7 16.♗d2?! (here White could have played 16.♗b6! 0-0 17.♖xd6, and despite his extra piece, Black's position is a shambles) 16...0-0 17.g5 hxg5 18.fxg5 ♖e5 19.f6 ♗f5 (Black frees himself – perpetual check was looming) 20.♖g3 ♗f8 21.♗c3 ♗b4! 22.♗e5 ♗xc2+ 23.♗b1 ♗e2 24.♗a1 ♗c2+ 25.♗b1 ♗a3+, and a draw, Anand-Kasparov, Dos Hermanas 1996.

### 10.gxh5

White has other possibilities here, e.g. 10.♗d5 and 10.g5. An example with the latter move is 10...♗e4 11.♗e4 ♗f5 12.♗g2 ♗c6 13.0-0 ♗d7 14.fx e5 ♗xe5 15.♗f4 ♗c7 16.♗xd6+! ♗xd6 17.♗xe5 ♗xe5 18.♖xd7+ ♗xd7 (18...♗xd7 19.♗a1) 19.♗xf5, with an equal endgame, Leko-Shirov, Polanica Zdroj 1998.

### 10...exf4 11.♗xf4 ♗xh5



### 12.♗xd6+

12.♗c3 could be met by 12...g6 13.♗d4 ♗g3 14.hxg3 ♗xh1 15.♖f3 ♗h5 16.♗d5 ♗g7 17.0-0-0 ♗c6 18.♗xc6 bxc6 19.♗b6 ♖g5+ 20.♗c3 ♖d8, and move repetition, according to Kasparov.

### 12...♗d6 13.♗xd6

13.♖xd6? is bad: 13...♖h4+ 14.♗g3 ♗xg3 15.hxg3 ♖xh1 16.♗d5 (16.0-0-0 ♖h6+) 16...♖e4+ 17.♗e2 ♗h1+ 18.♗d2 ♖d4+, again according to Kasparov.

### 13...♖h4+ 14.♗d2 ♖g5+

Black can still try 14...♗h6, but after 15.♗xb8 ♖g5+ (15...♗xb8?! 16.♖e1) 16.♖e1 ♖h4+ it will just be perpetual check again.

### 15.♗e1 ♖h4+ 16.♗d2 ♖g5+ 17.♗e1

And a draw was agreed. This perpetual also occurred in a number of other games, such as Timman-Kasparov, Wijk aan Zee 1999.

### SI 19.14

□ Gorelikov

■ Wohl

Correspondence game 1992

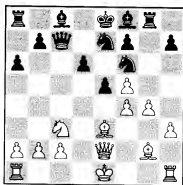
### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗e3 o6 7.g4 e5!?

The sharpest reply. 7...h6 was played in Perenyi-Barczay and Shirov-Kasparov.

### 8.♗f5 g6 9.♗g2

A positional and less tactical piece sacrifice than the other possibility, 9.g5.

### 9...gx f5 10.ex f5 ♗g8 11.h3 ♗c6 12.♖e2 ♗e7 13.f4 ♖c7



### 14.0-0-0

14.fx e5 dxe5 15.0-0-0 ♗d7 16.♖f2 ♗c6 17.♗b6 ♖b8 18.♗h1 has also been played here. In Landenbergue-Chachere, Switzerland 1993, there followed 18...h5 19.♗c5! hxg4 20.♗d6 ♖e8 21.♗xe5 gxh3 22.♗h3 ♗g7 23.♗d6 ♗f8 24.♗e7 ♗e7 25.♗e7+! ♗c7 26.♖c5+ ♗e8 27.♗e1+ ♗e4 28.♖e5+ ♗f8 29.♖xf6 ♖c6 30.♖h4 ♗d5 31.f6, and Black resigned. Stronger, however, is 18...♗xg2! 19.♖xg2 (19.♗d8+ ♗xd8 20.♗xd8 ♗xd8 21.♖xg2 ♗c6 won't do the job either) 19...♗c6, when it's an open question whether White has enough compensation for the piece.

### 14...♗f5!?

14...♗f5! is also worth looking at. Black is a piece up, so he is in a position to give one back.

### 15.♖f2

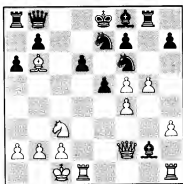
And here 15.♗d2! has been suggested.

### 15...♗c6 16.♗b6 ♖b8 17.g5

As usual, winning back the material in these lines does not have the desired effect. After 17.fx e5 dxe5 18.♗d8+ ♖xd8 19.♗xd8 ♗xd8 Black has more than enough material for the queen. In Nikolenko-Lepeshkin, Moscow 1989, he maintained the pressure with 18.♗h1, when 18...h5 is satisfactory.

### 17...♗xg2

17...♗d7 18.♗e4 ♗b6 19.♗f6+ is good for White.



### 18.gxf6!?

After 18.♖xg2 Black plays 18...♗d7 after all.

### 18...♗c8!

The correct reply! Less good is 18...♗h6? 19.♗h1 ♗xf4+ 20.♗b1 ♗c8 21.♖xg2 ♖xg2 22.♖xg2 ♗xb6 23.♖g8+ ♗d7 24.♖xf7+ ♗e6 25.♗e4 d5 26.♖e6+ ♗b5 27.♗xd5+, winning, or 18...♗xh1? 19.fx e7 ♗h6 20.♗h1 ♗xf4+ 21.♗b1 ♗c8 22.♗d1 ♖xf5 23.♗d6 ♗e7 24.♖c5 ♗e8 25.♗d5, also winning. These variations are from Wohl.

### 19.♗hg1 ♗b6 20.♖xb6 ♖c8!

Again the strongest reply. After 20...♖d8? 21.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 22.♗d2 ♗h6 23.♗dxg2 ♖xg2 24.♗xg2 ♗xf4+ 25.♗d1 White is better.

### 21.♗xd6!

White's best chance, as 21.♗d2 ♖xf5 22.♖xg2 ♗xg2 23.♖xg2 ♖xf4+ 24.♗d2 ♗h6 wins for Black.

### 21...♖xf5!

But not 21...♗d6? 22.♖xd6 ♗d7 23.♖xe5+ ♗f8 24.♖c5+ ♗e8 25.♗e1+, and Black might as well resign.

### 22.♗d2

22.♗d5 ♗xd5 23.♖xg8 ♖xf4+ 24.♗d1 ♗f3+ 25.♗e1 ♖e4+ also favours Black, e.g. 26.♗d2 ♗c2+ 27.♗c3 ♗c8+ 28.♗b3 ♖xc2+ 29.♗a3 ♖d3+ (and not, of course, 29...♖c5+? 30.♖xc5 ♗xc5 31.♗xf8+ 30.b3 ♖b5 31.♖xb5+ axb5 32.♗b2 e4, Wohl).

### 22...♗g6! 23.♗b5

A last-ditch attempt. 23.♖xg2? loses: 23...♖xg2 24.♖xg2 ♖xf4+ 25.♗d2 ♗h6. 23.♗d1 ♖xf4 24.♗b1 ♖xf6 25.♖xf6 ♖xf6 26.♖xg2 ♗f4, in the meantime, gives Black a favourable endgame.

### 23...axb5 24.♖xg2 e4!

And not 24...♖xg2? 25.♖xb5+, and mate!

### 25.♖xb7 ♗c8 26.♖xg6

After 26.♖g4! Black also wins with 26...e3! 27.♗d3 ♗d6!

### 26...hxg6 27.♗b1 e3 28.♗d3 ♗d6!

White resigned. After 29.♖x3+ ♗f8 it's all over. Razor-sharp defending by Black!

□ Rytshagov

■ Shishkov

Tallinn 1998

1.e4 c5 2.f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
♟f6 5.e.c3 a6 6.♟e3 e6 7.g4 e5 8.♟f5  
g6 9.g5 gxf5 10.exf5

10.gxf6 f4 has to be good for Black.

10...d5 11.gxf6

For 11...♟f3, see the game Shirov-Van Wely.

11...d4 12.♟c4 ♟xf6

12...dxe3? clearly loses the queen after 13.♟xf7+; but 12...♟c7 is probably playable: 13.♟d3 dxe3 14.0-0-0 exf2 15.♟xf7+!? (15.♟e2!?, a move from the Dutch correspondence player Piet de Laat, is also possible here) 15...♟xf7 16.♟d5+ ♟e8 (Black may survive 16...♟xf6 17.♟e4+ ♟e7 18.f6+ as well, but it looks pretty scary) 17.f7+ ♟c7 18.♟f3 ♟h6+ 19.♟b1 ♟f8 20.♟xf2 ♟c6 21.♟h4 ♟f4 22.♟f6 ♟xf7 23.♟xh8+ ♟g8 24.♟f6+ ♟f7 25.♟h8+, and perpetual check, Movsesian-Ribli, Austria 1999.

13.♟d5 ♟c6 14.♟xd4! ♟b4+

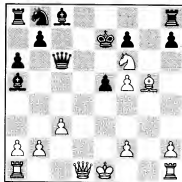
After 14...♟xc4? 15.♟f6+ ♟e7 16.♟xe5 or 14...exd4? 15.♟xd4 Black loses quickly.

15.c3 ♟xc4 16.♟e3 ♟a5

Good for White is 16...♟e7 17.♟b6 ♟c6 18.♟g1, but 16...♟xf5 may also be worth considering: 17.cxb4 ♟c4 18.♟f6+ ♟e7 19.♟g4 ♟d3! 20.♟g5 ♟e6, an idea of Petrusson's. Does White have anything?

17.♟f6+ ♟e7 18.♟g5 ♟c6

After 18...♟e7 Shirov has recommended 19.♟d5!, when a nice variation is 19...♟d5 20.♟xd5+ ♟d6 21.0-0-0 ♟e6 22.♟e7+ ♟b6 23.♟e3+ ♟a5 24.♟d5+ b5 25.a4 ♟c6 26.b4+ ♟xb4 27.cxb4+ ♟xb4 28.♟b2 ♟b7 29.d2+ ♟xa4 30.♟a1 mate! After 18...♟d8 Ftacnik has indicated the following variation: 19.♟xh7+ f6 20.♟xf6+ ♟e8 21.♟h5+ ♟f7 22.♟h6!, with a strong attack, e.g. 22...♟d6 23.♟g1 ♟d7 24.♟g6.



19.♟b3! ♟d8

Black must not accept the double rook sacrifice: 19...♟xh1+ 20.♟e2 ♟xa1 21.♟a3! ♟d8 22.♟e8+, and mate, while 19...♟xf5 20.0-0-0 also looks lost for Black. But the text won't save him either.

20.♟d5++ ♟e8 21.0-0-0 ♟d6

Or 21...♟d5 22.♟d5 ♟xf5 23.♟e1! ♟c7 24.♟xe5+ ♟e6 (24...♟xe5 25.♟d8 mate) 25.♟b4, and it's finished, Rytshagov.

22.♟a3 ♟d8

Or 22...f6 23.♟xf6 ♟d7 24.♟hg1!, and the rook intervenes decisively, or 22...♟b6 23.♟e3 ♟d1+ 24.♟d1 f6 25.♟h6 ♟c5 26.♟b3. Again according to Rytshagov.

23.♟xd8 ♟xd8 24.♟b6! ♟xd1+

25.♟xd1+ ♟e8

And Black resigned without waiting for 26.♟d5.

SI 19.14

□ Shirov

■ Van Wely

Istanbul Olympiad 2000

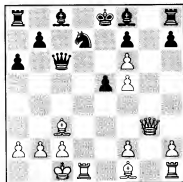
1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
♟f6 5.e.c3 a6 6.♟e3 e6 7.g4 e5 8.♟f5  
g6 9.g5! ♟xf5 10.exf5 d5 11.♟f3

For 11.gxf6, see the previous game.

11...d4 12.0-0-0 ♟bd7 13.♟d2

Another idea is 13.gxf6 dxc3 14.♟c4 ♟xf6 15.♟hg1, with an unclear position. According to Gallagher, Black can now go 15...h5! in order to meet 16.♟g5 with 16...♟h6. 13...♟c7 14.gxf6 dxc3 15.♟xc3 ♟c6 16.♟g3

After a queen swap White is left with nothing, of course.



16...♟xh1

The intermediate check 16...♟h6+ 17.♟b1 ♟f4 has also been tried here: 18.♟d3 0-0 19.♟g1+ ♟h8 20.♟b4 ♟c5 (20...♟g8? 21.♟xg8+ ♟xg8 22.♟e7, and White was winning, Shirov-Van Wely, Polanica Zdroj 2000) 21.♟c3 ♟xf6 22.♟xe5 ♟xf5, with an unclear position, Kalka-Van Wely, German Bundesliga 2000. Whether 18...♟g8 is an improvement in this line is doubtful: 19.♟h3 ♟d8! 20.♟b4! ♟xf6 21.♟c4 ♟g5? (21...b5 22.♟a5+ ♟e8 23.♟c7 ♟xf5 24.♟d6 e4 25.♟xd7+ ♟xd7 26.♟xf6 is also good for White, although a lot less clear) 22.♟d6 ♟g7 23.f6 ♟g1+ 24.♟f1, and Black resigned, Shirov-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 2001.

17.♟g2 ♟h6+

17...♟g8! is an idea from the Dutch master Karol van der Weide. After 18.♟xg8 ♟xh2 the queen escapes. A possible continuation is 19.♟d5 ♟h6+ 20.f4 ♟xf6 21.fxc5 ♟g7 22.♟g1 ♟xg8 23.♟xg8 a5 24.b4 axb4

25.♟xb4 ♟a4 26.♟d6 ♟a6 27.♟b4 ♟a4, and a draw by repetition. But is this sequence forced?

18.♟d2 ♟xd2+ 19.♟xd2 ♟xg2?

Now Black is doomed. 19...♟xd1+! 20.♟xd1 ♟f8 is a better attempt to stay alive. After, for example, 21.♟d5 a5 22.♟c4 b6 23.♟g2 ♟b8 24.♟d5 ♟d8 25.♟b5 ♟b7 26.♟d6 ♟e8 27.♟c4 b5 28.♟xf7 ♟b6 he is still very much in the game. Thus an analysis by Rajkovic.

20.♟xg2 a5 21.f4 exf4 22.♟g7! ♟f8 23.♟e1+ ♟d8 24.♟e7 ♟c7 25.♟xf8 Black resigned.

SI 19.16

□ Gottlieb

■ Psakhis

Winnipeg 1997

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 a6  
5.♟c3 d6 6.♟e3 b5 7.f3 ♟b7 8.♟d2  
♟d7 9.0-0-0 ♟g6 10.g4 ♟b6 11.h4  
♟c8 12.a3

An interesting but dubious sacrifice is 12.♟xb5?! axb5 13.♟xb5+. In the game Short-Hübner, Brussels 1986, there followed 13...♟d7?! 14.♟b4 ♟c7 15.♟b3 ♟d8? 16.♟g5+ ♟e7 17.♟xd7 ♟xd7 18.♟b5, with advantage for White. But after the better 13...♟bd7! the situation is very unclear.

12...♟d7 f3 13.♟g5 e6?

After 13...♟c7 14.♟dxb5! axb5 15.♟xb5 the sequence 15...♟b8 16.♟xd6+ ♟xd6 17.♟xd6 ♟xd6 18.♟xd6 is probably good for White, who has three pawns for the piece. But 15...♟c5, e.g. 16.♟e3 ♟c4 17.♟xc5 ♟xd2 18.♟xd6 ♟xf3 19.♟xf8 ♟xf8 20.♟xd7 ♟xe4 21.♟d3 ♟c6 22.♟c7 ♟xc7 23.♟xc7 ♟e7, is unclear, according to Psakhis.

14.♟dxb5!?

After 14.♟xe7 ♟xe7 the position is roughly equal.

### 14...axb5 15.♟xb5

Another idea is 15.♟e7!? ♟e7 16.♟xb5; after 16...d5 17.♟xd7+ ♟xd7! 18.cxd5 0-0 19.dxe6 ♟e5 the position is unclear, Psakhis.

### 15...d5!

Here 15...♟c5 16.♟xd6+ ♟xd6 17.♟xd6 ♟xd6 18.♟xd6 was good for White again, but 15...f6!? 16.♟f4 e5 17.♟e3 d5 was also worth a try, Psakhis.

### 16.♟d6+



Sl 19.16

□ Movsesian

■ Kasparov

Sarajevo 2000

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 a6 6.♟e3 e6 7.f3 b5 8.♟d2 ♟bd7 9.0-0-0 ♟b7 10.g4 ♟b6 11.♟f2

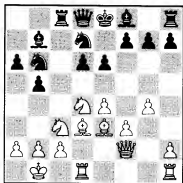
Alternatives are 11.♟d3, 11.h4 and 11.g5.

11...♟fd7 12.♟b1

Safer is 12.♟d3 ♟c8 13.♟ce2.

12...♟c8 13.♟d3?!

White must have provoked the exchange sacrifice on c3 on purpose, because it had all been played before.



### 13...♟xc3!

This won't have cost Kasparov much time! He

### 23...♟xa3!

A decisive sacrifice. The white king position is overwhelmed by an entire army of black pieces.

### 24.bxa3

Or 24.♟b1 ♠a5, followed by 25...♟fa8.

24...♟xa3+ 25.♟b1 ♟c3+ 26.♟a1 ♠a8

### 27.♟a4

Desperation...

27...♟bxa4 28.♟b1 ♟b2+! 29.♟xb2 ♟c5+

White resigned.

turns the white castled position into a heap.

### 14.bxc3 ♟c7

After the game Kasparov indicated 14...♟a4!? as more accurate. The queen can then go to a5, if necessary.

15.♟e2 ♟e7 16.g5 0-0 17.h4 ♠a4

### 18.♟c1 ♟e5 19.h5

19.f4 is met by 9...♟xd3 20.cxd3 d5!, and White is in great trouble.

### 19...d5!

Even now this is still a strong move.

### 20.♟h2 ♟d6 21.♟h3?!

Now it's easy. White's best chance was 21.♟f4!?, when Kasparov produced the following analysis: 21...b4! 22.cxb4 ♠c8 23.♠c1 d4! 24.♟a1 (or 24.a3 a5 25.♟b5 ♟c3+! 26.♟xc3 ♟xf3, with advantage for Black) 24...♟c3! (24...♟xb4? is not good in view of 25.c3! ♟b6 26.♟xe5 ♟a3 27.♟xd4! ♟b2+ 28.♟b1 ♟xc1+ 29.♟xc1 ♠xc3+ 30.♟c2, and Black has nothing) 25.♟xd4 ♟xb4! 26.♟b3 (after 26.♟xe5 ♟a5 it's over at once) 26...♟d7 27.♠c1 ♟a4 28.♟e1 ♟xa2! 29.♟xa2 ♟c3+ 30.♟b1 ♟xd3, and Black wins.

21...♟xd3 22.cxd3 b4!



### 23.cxb4

Or 23.c4 dxc4 24.g6 cxd3 25.♟xd3 ♠c8 26.♟d2 ♟e5 27.♟hd1 ♟c6 28.h6 ♟b5, and the threat of 29...♟e2 decides, Kasparov.

### 23...♟c8! 24.♟a1 dxe4

With 24...♟xb4! Black could win at once:

25.♟h2 ♟c2 26.g6 ♟c3.

### 25.fxe4 ♟xe4! 26.g6

Or 26.dxe4 ♟e5+ 27.♟d4 ♟xd4+ 28.♟xd4 ♟xc1+ 29.♟c1 ♠xc1 mate!

26...♟xh1 27.♟xh1 ♟xb4 28.gxf7+

♟f8 29.♟g2

After 29.♟b2 Black wins with 29...♟c2 30.♟b1 ♟xe2, e.g. 31.h6 ♟c3! 32.hxg7+ ♟xf7! 33.♟b7+ ♟f6.

29...♟b8! 30.♟b2

After 30.♟d2 ♠a3 31.♟c1 ♠xc1 32.♟xc1 ♟b6 it's curtains.

30...♟xb2 31.♟d4 ♟xd1! 32.♟xe6+

♟xf7

White resigned in view of 33.♟xc7 ♟c3+.

Sl 19.16

□ Romero Holmes

■ Gil Reguera

La Roda 1986

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 a6 6.♟e3 e6 7.♟d2 b5 8.f3 ♟b7

8...b4 9.♟e2 d5 10.e5 ♟fd7 11.f4 ♟c5 is also playable, as is 8...♟e7 or 8...♟bd7.

### 9.g4 b4

After 9...h6 White can choose between 10.0-0-0 and 10.h4?!

10...♟e2 d5?!

10...e5 may be better. In the game Hector-Ornstein, Swedish championship 1986, there followed 11.♟f5 g6 12.♟xb4?! ♟c7 13.♟g5 ♟bd7 14.♟f3 d5 15.♟c3 ♟b6 16.0-0-0 ♠c8

17.♟d3 ♟c5 18.♟d2 ♟a4, with good play for Black.

### 11.g5!

This is stronger than 11.e5 ♟fd7 12.f4 ♟c5 13.♟g3 ♟bd7, with roughly equal chances.

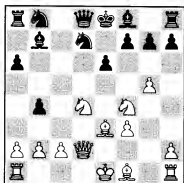
### 11...♟fd7

11...♟h5 (the knight on the edge!) has drawbacks: 12.♟h3 dxe4 13.fxe4 ♟xe4 14.♟f1 g6 15.0-0-0 ♟e7 16.♟g3 ♟xg3 17.hxg3 ♟c7?

(17...♔d5 is still unclear) 18.♔xe6!, with a large advantage for White: Black cannot take the bishop, Blehm-Petkevich, Cappelle la Grande 1995.

### 12. exd5 ♔xd5 13. ♔f4 ♔b7?

This is a fatal error; Black stops covering e6. White strikes immediately. According to Nikitin, White is also better after 13...♔e5 14.0-0! ♔e7 15.♔xd5 ♔xd5 16.f4! ♔c4 (16...♔xa2? is bad in view of 17.♔g2) 17.♔xc4 ♔xc4 18.♔g2, but 13...♔b6!? may be a playable option.



### 14. ♔xe6! ♔xe6 15. ♔xe6 ♔a5

A later game saw 15...♔c8. This went wrong as well: 15...♔c8 16.♔h3! ♔f7 17.g6+! ♔xg6 18.♔g5+ ♔e8 19.♔e6 ♔e7 20.0-0-0 ♔e6 21.♔h1 ♔f6 22.♔c5!, and Black resigned, Pinski-Mannke, Warsaw 1995. The point is 22...♔xc5 23.♔f7+ ♔f8 24.♔d8+, mating.

16.♔h3 ♔f7  
16...♔e5 is met by 17.0-0-0 ♔b6 18.f4, and wins.

### 17. g6+!

Vacating square g5 for the knight.

### 17...hxg6 18. ♔g5+ ♔e8 19.0-0-0 ♔xh3

What else?

### 20. ♔h1!

White is not interested in the h3 rook!

### 20...♔e7

After 20...♔d8 White had intended this: 21.♔f4 ♔c6 22.♔f7+ ♔c8 23.♔e8+ ♔b7

24.♔xh8 ♔xh8 25.♔d6+, and it's all over.

### 21. ♔f4 ♔c6

Or 21...♔d8 22.♔e7! ♔xe7 23.♔d6+ ♔e8 24.♔e6+, or 21...♔h8 22.♔e7+! ♔xe7 23.♔e1+ ♔d8 24.♔f7+ ♔e8 25.♔d6+.

### 22. ♔xe7+! ♔d8

After 22...♔xe7 23.♔d6+ Black will be mated in a few moves. You'll see why yourself.

### 23. ♔e3 ♔c8 24. ♔xh3

24.♔e8+ ♔b7 25.♔f7 was the quickest win.

### 24...♔xa2 25.♔d4 ♔a1+ 26.♔d2 ♔a5 27.♔g5

Black resigned.

SI 20.1

### □ Shmutter

### ■ Obukhov

Russia 1993

### 1. e4 c5 2. ♔f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♔xd4 ♔f6 5. ♔c3 d6 6. g4

The Keres Attack.

### 6...e5?! 7. ♔b5+!

The situation is different from the Perenyi variation. This bishop check gives White the better position.

### 7...♔d7 8. ♔xd7+ ♔xd7

8...♔bxd7 9.♔f5 looks very bad indeed for Black.

### 9. ♔f5 h5

After 9...g6 White can choose between 10.♔c3 and 10.♔g5.

### 10. ♔gh5!

10.♔g5 and 10.f3 are also playable, but the text is probably White's strongest option.

### 10...♔xh5

Other moves are very bad for Black: 10...♔xh5? 11.♔d5!, or 10...♔xe4? 11.♔xg7+ ♔xg7 12.♔xe4 d5 13.h6.

### 11. ♔h6!

Earlier games had seen 11.♔d5 or 11.♔g5, but the text makes the entire line with 6...e5 more or less unplayable for Black.

### 11...♔c6

Other moves are no better: 11...gxf6 12.♔xh5, or 11...g6 12.♔xh8 gxf5 (12...♔xh8 13.♔xd6+ ♔xd6 14.♔xd6) 13.♔d6 ♔c6 14.♔e5, in both cases with a large advantage for White.

### 12. ♔xh5 g6 13. ♔g5 gxf5

And here 13...♔xh6 14.♔xh6 ♔d4 is no better: 15.0-0-0 ♔f3 16.♔c3 ♔h3 17.♔g8!, and wins.

### 14. ♔xh8



### 14...♔d4

After 14...♔xh8 15.♔d5 or 14...♔xf8 15.0-0-0! ♔e6 (15...♔d4 16.♔h1, transposing to the game) 16.exf5! ♔h6 17.h4! ♔d4 18.♔b1 White has a large advantage.

### 15.0-0-0 ♔xf8 16. ♔h1 ♔e6 17. ♔xd4!

That knight has to go!

### 17...exd4 18. ♔g7+ ♔e7 19.♔d5+ ♔d7

### 20. ♔xd4

Thanks to the sovereign knight on d5, White has a decisive plus.

### 20...♔hc8

White wins after both 20...b5 21.♔d3, 20...fxe4 21.♔a4+ ♔d8 22.♔a5+ and 20...♔h6+ 21.♔b1 (21.f4!? is also strong) 21...♔ag8 (21...♔hg8 22.♔a4+) 22.♔d1. A nice attempt is 20...♔ac8 21.♔xa7 ♔xc2+!, but after 22.♔b1! ♔c7 23.f3 ♔xh2 24.♔b6 White wins as well. 21.♔b4! ♔ab8 22.♔a4+ ♔c6 23.♔xa7 ♔h6+ 24.♔b1 ♔h8

There is nothing else.

### 25. ♔b4 ♔c7 26. e5! ♔a8

26...b5 runs into 27.e6+! ♔xe6 28.♔xb8! ♔xb8 29.♔g7+ ♔c8 30.♔g8+ ♔b7 31.♔xb8+ ♔xb8 32.♔a6+, which leaves White with a winning pawn ending. Great stuff!

### 27. e6+! ♔xe6

Or 27...f6x6 28.♔xa8 ♔xa8 29.♔g7+.

### 28. ♔b6 ♔c5 29. ♔d3 ♔d4 30. ♔xb7

Black resigned.

SI 20.2

### □ Kotronias

### ■ Georgiev, Krum

Karditsa 1994

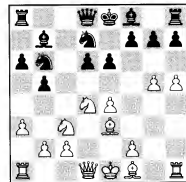
### 1. e4 c5 2. ♔f3 d6 3. d4 ♔f6 4. ♔c3 cxd4 5. ♔xd4 e6 6. g4 a6 7. g5 ♔d7 8. ♔e3 b5

For 8...♔c6, see the game Pokojowczyk-Timoschenko.

### 9. a3 ♔b7 10. h4 ♔b6

Black is not great. Other moves are not really stronger: 10...♔e5 11.♔g4! ♔bd7 12.0-0-0 ♔e5 13.♔g2, or 10...♔e7 11.♔g4 ♔c6 12.0-0-0 ♔e5 13.♔h3, in both cases with the better prospects for White.

### 11. h5 ♔d7



12.g6!

White sacrifices a rook to crack the black king position.

**12...hxg6 13.hxg6! ♚xh1 14.gxf7+ ♜e7?**

Black wants to hang on to his h1 rook, but now his king is overrun by a furious assault. Relatively better is 14...♙xf7 15.♙f3+ ♙f6 16.♙xh1 ♚e5 (16...♚c4 17.♙xc4 bxc4 18.0-0-0 should also be very good for White) 17.♙xe6 ♙xe6 18.♙xb6 d5 19.♙d4 ♚c6 20.♙h3, with a large plus for White, Adams-C.Hansen, Wijk aan Zee 1991, where 12.g6! first saw the light of day.

**15.♙g4! ♙c8**

The only move. After 15...♚c5 16.♙g5+ Black loses the queen, while after 15...♙h8 16.♙g5+ ♚f6 17.♙xe6+ ♚d8 18.♙e8+ ♙c7 19.♙e6 he is mated.

**16.♙xe6+ ♚d8 17.♙e8+ ♙c7 18.♙e6+ ♙c6**

Or 18...♙b8 19.♙f8 ♚f8 20.♙xb6 ♙c6 21.♙e7, winning.

**19.♚d5! ♙f1+**

There is nothing better. 19...♙xe8 20.♚b4 mate, or 19...♙d5 20.♙xd5+ ♙xd5 21.0-0-0+ ♙c6 22.♙g2+.

**20.♙f1 ♚d5 21.♙xd5+ ♙xd5 22.♙xf8! ♚e5**

22...♚f8 is met by 23.♙d1+ ♙c4 24.♙d4+ ♙c5 25.♙h4+ ♙d5 26.♙e4 mate; 22...♙xe8 leads to a winning endgame for White after 23.fxe8 ♙xe8 24.♙d7 ♙c6 25.♙b6 ♙xe3 26.fxe3 ♙xb6 27.♙d1; and 22...♙c4+ won't help either: 23.♙e1 ♚f8 24.♙d1+.

**23.♙d1+ ♙e4 24.♙d4+ ♙f5 25.♙f4+ Black resigned.**

SI 20.5

□ Anand

■ Ye Jiangchuan

Kuala Lumpur 1989

**1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♚xd4 ♚f6 5.♚c3 d6 6.g4 h6 7.♙g1 ♚c6 8.h4 h5**

In order to parry the threat 9.g5.

**9.gxh5**

After 9.g5 ♚g4 10.♙e2 g6 11.♙xc6 bxc6 12.♙xg4 hxg4 13.♙xg4 ♙g7 14.♙d2 ♙b6 Black has compensation for the pawn.

**9...♚xh5 10.♙g5 ♚f6**

10...♙b6 has also been played. After 11.♚b3 White is slightly better.

**11.♙e2 a6 12.h5 ♚d7 13.♙d2 ♚e7**

The game Kasparov-Sax, Tilburg 1989, saw 13...h5 14.a3 ♚e7 15.♙e3 ♚xh5 16.0-0-0 ♚f6?! (stronger is 16...g6 17.f4 ♙f6 18.♙h1, with unclear play; but White does have compensation for his pawn) 17.♙xg7 ♙b8 18.♙xc6 ♙xc6 19.♙d4, with advantage for White.

**14.0-0 ♙c7?**

Now White can start making combinations. Better was 14...b5, possibly transposing to the game Kasparov-Sax.

**15.h6! gxh6**

15...g6 is met strongly by 16.♙f4!, e.g. 16...e5 17.♙xf6! exf4 18.♙xh8, winning, or 16...♚d4 17.♙xf6 ♙xe2+ 18.♙xe2, with a large advantage for White.

**16.♙xf6! ♙xf6**



**17.♚f5! ♚e7**

17...exf5 is met by 18.♚d5 ♙d8 19.♙xh6! ♙xh6 20.♙g8 mate. After 17...0-0-0 18.♚xd6+ ♙b8 19.♚x17 ♙xc3 20.bxc3

White has a winning position, and 17...♙e5 is simply met by 18.f4.

**18.♚xe7 ♙xe7?!**

Now Black loses quickly, but 18...♚e7 can't help him either. Anand has indicated this line: 19.♙g7 ♙c5 20.f4 ♚g6 21.e5 ♙f8 22.♙xg6 (xg6 23.♚e4 ♙d5 24.♙e3 ♙xa2 25.♙xd6 ♙a1+ 26.♚d2 ♙a5+ 27.c3 ♙c7 28.♙d4 ♙d8 29.♚c5 ♙e7 30.f5! exf5 31.♙xg6 ♙e8 32.♙e6+ ♙f8 33.♙d6!).

**19.g3! b5 20.♙f4! ♙d8**

Or 20...b4 21.e5! dxe5 22.♙h4+ ♙e8 23.♙f6 ♙f8 24.♙h5 ♙c8 25.♚e4 ♚d4 26.♙xf7+, and it's finished. Thus Anand.

**21.♙h4+ ♙e8 22.♙xb5! ♚e5**

Or 22...axb5 23.♚xb5 and 24.♚xd6+.

**23.e2**

Now White wins easily.

**23...♙c5 24.♙h5 ♙f8 25.f4 ♚c6 26.e5! d5**

Or 26...dxe5 27.♚e4.

**27.♙xf7+! ♙xf7**

27...♙xf7 runs into 28.♙h5+, and mate, of course.

**28.♙g8+ ♙f8 29.♙xf8+ ♙f8 30.♙h5+ ♙e7 31.♙xh6**

Black resigned.

SI 20.5

□ Sobura

■ Pieniżak

Poland 1988

**1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♚xd4 ♚f6 5.♚c3 e6 6.g4 h6 7.h4**

Another good move is 7.♙g1.

**7...♙e7 8.♙f3 h5**

White was threatening the strong move 9.g5!.

**9.gxh5 ♚xh5 10.♙g5 ♚c6 11.♙xc6**

White has other options here as well: 11.0-0-0 ♙xg5+ 12.hxg5 ♙xg5+ 13.♚b1 ♚xd4 14.♙xd4 ♚d7 15.♙xd6 ♙c6 16.♙xc6 bxc6 17.e5, with compensation for the ex-

change, Ljubojevic-Timman, Montreal 1979, or 11.♙b5 ♙d7 12.♙xc6 bxc6 13.0-0-0 ♙xg5+ 14.hxg5 ♙xg5+ 15.♙b1 g6 16.♚b3 ♙e5 17.♚d2 ♙c5 18.e5 d5 19.♚de4!, with advantage for White, Kotronias-Van den Doel, Wijk aan Zee 1995.

**11...bxc6 12.0-0-0 ♙xg5+?!**

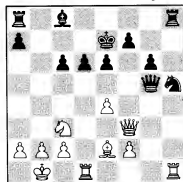
Taking this pawn is risky. 12...♙b8! would have been better.

**13.hxg5 ♙xg5+ 14.♙b1 ♙e7?!**

This is refuted beautifully, but it is hard to indicate a satisfactory move for Black, e.g. 14...d5? 15.exd5 cxd5 16.♙xd5! exd5 17.♙xd5, or 14...♙c5? 15.e5!.

Relatively best is 14...♙e5, when White plays 15.♙e2 g6 16.♙e3!, followed by f4.

**15.♙e2 g6**



**16.♙d6! ♚xd6 17.♙xf7!**

The point of the rook sacrifice. The black king's retreat is cut off.

**17...a5**

Other moves won't help either: 17...e5 18.♙d1+ ♙c6 19.♙b5+ ♙b6 20.♙d6+, or 17...e5 18.♙d1+ ♙c5 19.♙a4+, or 17...♙f4 18.♙d1+ ♙e5 19.♙e7!, and White wins in all cases.

**18.♙d1+ ♙e5**

Or 18...♙c5 19.♙a4+, and mate.

**19.♙xh5! ♙xh5 20.f4! ♙xf4 21.♙g7+ Black resigned;** after 21...♙f6 22.♙c7 he is mated.

## SI 20.10

- Pokojowczyk  
 Timoschenko

Polarica Zdroj 1979

1.e4 c5 2.f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♟c3 d6 6.g4 ♟c6 7.g5 ♟d7  
 8.♟e3 a6 9.h4 ♟e7 10.♟d2 ♟xd4  
 11.♟xd4 0-0 12.0-0 b5 13.♟g1

Both players are looking threateningly at the enemy king. With the text White is aiming for h5 and g6. Another idea is 13.f4, when Black can play 13...♟a5 14.f5 b4.

13...♟b8 14.h5 b4 15.♟d5?!

A thematic sacrifice in this kind of position; but they don't always work... 15.♟e2 is better.

15...exd5 16.h6 ♟e5!

The correct reply! 16...f6? is bad: 17.♟xd5+ ♟f7 18.g6 19.♟xf7+ ♟xf7 20.♟c4+ ♟f8 21.h7.

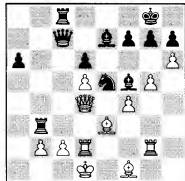
17.f4 ♟c7! 18.exd5

Other moves are no better, e.g. 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.♟xd5 ♟e6, or 18.hxg7 ♟d8 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.♟a7 ♟xa7 21.♟a7 ♟b7, in both cases with good play for Black.

18...♟f5! 19.♟g2 ♟fc8 20.♟dd2 b3!

21.axb3 ♟xb3 22.♟d1

White still cannot safely win back his piece: 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.♟a7 ♟a5 24.♟xa6 ♟xc2+ 25.♟xc2 ♟e1 mate!



22...♟f6!

A very nice one!

23.cxb3

The point of Black's previous move is that 23.gxf6 is met strongly by 23...♟f3! 24.♟xg7+ ♟h8.

23...♟c1+ 24.♟e2 ♟f3! 25.♟b4

25.♟a4!? may be better, but after the game the refutation 25...♟x2 26.♟xd2 ♟d3+ 27.♟xd3 ♟xf1+ 28.♟e2 ♟xb2 29.♟e4 ♟a3! was found. Black is better.

25...♟e8! 26.♟xf3

26.gxf6 is met by 26...♟e1+, and wins.

26...♟xf1+ 27.♟f2 ♟h1 28.♟g1

The white king has strayed far away from home and is in terrible trouble. A few other variations: 28.gxf6 ♟h5+ 29.♟g3 ♟h3 mate, or 28.♟g3 g6! 29.gxf6 ♟g4+! 30.♟xg4 ♟h5 mate, or 28.♟a7 ♟h5+ 29.♟g3 ♟h4+ 30.♟f2 ♟h4+ 31.♟f3 ♟e4+ 32.♟xe4 ♟h5+ 33.♟e3 ♟h3+!

28...♟h3+ 29.♟g3 ♟f1+ 30.♟f2 ♟e3+!

A nice final move! White resigned in view of 31.♟xe3 ♟d3 mate.

## SI 20.13

- Movsesian

- Cvitan

German Bundesliga 1997

1.e4 c5 2.f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♟c3 d6 6.g4 ♟c6 7.g5 ♟d7  
 8.♟e3 ♟e7 9.h4 0-0 10.♟h5!? a6  
 11.0-0-0 ♟xd4

In order to be able to play ...b5.

12.♟xd4 b5 13.♟d3 ♟e5

13...b4? is refuted by 14.♟d5! exd5 15.♟xg7! ♟xg7 16.♟h6+ ♟g8 17.exd5 f5 18.gxf6 e.p. ♟xf6 19.♟h1+, and mate.

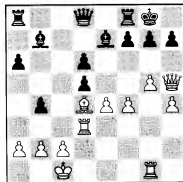
14.f4 ♟xd3+ 15.♟d3 ♟b7 16.♟g1 b4?

This move is still not good. A better option is 16...♟c7!. 17.♟h6 is met by 17...e5 18.fxe5 dxe5. After 17.f5 Black plays 17...b4 18.f6

c5, and holds his own, e.g. 19.fxe7 ♟xc7 20.♟d5 ♟xd5 21.exd5 exd4 22.♟g4 ♟fe8 23.♟xd4 a5. After 17.♟d5 ♟xd5 (but not 17...exd5? 18.♟c3! ♟d8 19.♟cg3, and White wins as in the game) 18.exd5 e5 19.♟e3 exf4 20.♟xf4 ♟c4 21.♟f3 ♟fe8 22.♟d2 ♟xa2 23.♟a3 ♟c4 24.♟e2 White has compensation for the pawn, but Black is still fully in the game. Thus, in a nutshell, the analysis by the Scottish grandmaster Motwani.

17.♟d5! exd5

Black has to take the knight because of the devastating threat 18.♟f6+! ♟xf6 19.gxf6 ♟xe4 20.♟h6, and mate. Capturing the knight with the bishop is no better: 17...♟xd5 18.exd5 ♟e8 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.♟xg7! ♟xg7 21.♟h6+ ♟g8 22.g6, and Black might as well resign.



18.♟d3g

It is still too early for 18.♟h6: 18...gxf6 19.gxf6+ ♟g5 20.♟xg5+ ♟xg5.

18...♟c7

After 18...♟h8 White plays 19.g6 fxe6 20.♟xg6 ♟f6 21.♟g7!, and mate, while 18...♟e8 is met by 19.g6! fxe6 20.♟xg6 hxe6 21.♟xg6 ♟f6 22.♟xf6. Thus Motwani's analysis.

19.♟h6!

Now this beautiful move is decisive.

19...♟xc2+

The only way: Black opens an escape route

for his king. But he comes too late to rescue the game.

20.♟xc2 ♟fc8+ 21.♟d2 gxf6 22.gxf6+ ♟g5

Again no choice...

23.♟xg5+ ♟f8 24.exd5 ♟e7 25.♟f5! ♟c4

25...♟g8 26.♟e1+ also loses.

26.♟d3 ♟ac8 27.♟g7

Black resigned.

## SI 20.13

- Nunn

- Thorsteins

Lugano 1989

1.e4 c5 2.f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♟c3 d6 6.g4 ♟e7

A laconic reply. Black gives White a free hand. But the move is not bad.

7.g5 ♟d7 8.h4 0-0 9.♟e3 ♟c6 10.♟c4

A good developing move, although 10.♟d2 and 10.♟h5 are worth considering, especially the latter – see the game Movsesian-Cvitan!

10...♟xd4

10...♟b6!? 11.♟b3 d5!? looks more logical.

11.♟xd4 a6?!

Now White can quietly continue his kingside attack; Black's counterplay on the other wing won't develop quickly enough. Nunn has indicated 11...♟e5!? 12.♟e2 ♟c6 13.♟d2 a6 as stronger.

12.0-0 b5 13.♟b3 ♟c5?!

Black would have been better advised to leave the knight on d7, but 13...♟b8 14.h5! ♟xg5 15.h6 would also have been very good for White, e.g. 15...gxf6 (15...♟f6 16.♟xd6) 16.♟d1 e5 17.♟h6! exd4 18.♟xg5 ♟xg5+ 19.♟xg5+ ♟h8 20.♟d5.

14.f4 ♟a5 15.h5! b4 16.h6 e5

The only move, in fact; but White had prepared an exceptionally beautiful reply.

17.♟d5!

Bad is 17.fxe5?! dxe5 18.♞xe5? ♖xb3+, of course, and White loses his queen. But the text launches a winning attack. The queen sacrifice is undoubtedly correct.

#### 17...♖xb3+

17...exd4 is met by 18.♖xe7+ ♖h8 19.hxg7+ ♖xg7 20.♙xd4+ f6 21.gxf6+ ♞xf6 22.♞dg1+ ♖f8 23.♞g8+ ♖xe7 24.♞xh7+ ♞f7 25.♞xf7 mate!

#### 18.axb3 ♙xg5

A desperate attempt to prevent the inevitable. Taking the queen still loses: 18...exd4 19.♖xe7+ ♖h8 20.♙xd4 f6 21.g6 ♙g8 22.hxg7+ ♖xg7 23.♞xh7+ ♖f8 24.♞f7+ ♖e8 25.♖xg8.

#### 19.fxe5!

Now White could no longer sacrifice the queen: 19.fxg5? exd4 20.♖e7+ ♖h8 21.♙xd4 ♞xg5+.

#### 19...♙xe3+

Or 19...dxe5 20.♞xe5 ♙xe3+ 21.♖b1.

#### 20.♞xe3 g6 21.♞g5 f6 22.♖e7+ ♖f7

The game is over. 22...♖h8 would have run into 23.♖xg6+, but after the text White wins the queen.

#### 23.e6+

Black resigned.

### SI 21.3

#### □ De Firmian

#### ■ Yudasin

Manila 1990

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♖f6 5.♙c3 a6 6.f4 e6 7.♞f3 ♖b6 8.a3 g6

A rather strange idea in this position: 8...♙c6 looks more logical.

#### 9.♙e2! ♙g7 10.♙e3 ♖c7

10...♞xb2? is very bad. White simply goes 11.♙d2, threatening to win the queen with 12.♞hb1.

#### 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.g4! ♖c6

After 12...e5 De Firmian has indicated 13.g5!? (13.♙f5!? may also be good) 13...exd4 14.gxf6 dxc3 15.fxg7 cxb2+ 16.♖b1 ♙e8 17.f5!?, with advantage for White.

#### 13.f5 ♖d7

In the later game Adams-Renet, Cannes 1992, Black tried 13...♙e8, but after 14.g5 ♖d7 15.f6 ♙h8 16.h4 ♖d5 17.♞h3 b5 18.h5 he had a miserable position.

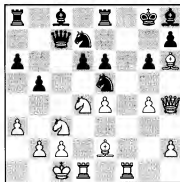
#### 14.♞hf1 ♖ce5 15.♞g3 ♙e8 16.♞h4 b5

#### 17.♙h6 ♙h7?

Now White has a winning combination, and not such a hard one either.

Even top grandmasters like Yudasin can lose track of things when the pressure is piled on... But 17...♙d8 18.♞h3 ♙h8 19.fxe6 fxe6 20.♙f2, De Firmian, would have given White a very good position as well, while 17...♙f6 could be met strongly by 18.♙g5!? (or 18.g5 ♙h8 19.fxg6 fxg6 20.♙f4), e.g. 18...♙xg5+ 19.♞xg5 ♙b7 20.♞h6 ♖h8 21.g5 ♙a8 22.♙f4, with attacking threats.

#### 18.fxe6 fxe6



#### 19.♙e6! ♖b7

Instead of resigning... 19...♙e6 is answered from 20.♙d5 ♖a5 21.♖e7+, and the game is over.

#### 20.♙d5 ♖f6 21.♖ec7 ♙xg4 22.♙xe8 ♙xe2 23.♖xf6+ ♙xf6 24.♞xf6

Black resigned.

### SI 21.3

#### □ Sax

#### ■ Wojtkiewicz

Debrecen 1992

#### 1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4

♖f6 5.♙c3 a6 6.f4 e6 7.♞f3 ♖b6 8.a3

♖c6 9.♖b3 ♖c7 10.g4 b5 11.g5 ♖d7

#### 12.♙e3 ♙b7

Both players are developing their pieces. White is already preparing a kingside attack in case Black castles kingside.

#### 13.♙d3 ♖c5

13...b4!? may well be eminently playable.

#### 14.0-0 ♖b3

With 14...♖xd3 Black can swap White's attacking bishop, but then 15.cxd3 strengthens the white centre. White will then attack the black position with 16.f5.

#### 15.cxb3 ♙e7

15...g6 has been suggested as an improvement.

#### 16.♞h3 0-0?

This is a bit too careless. Had Black underestimated White's reaction? 16...g6 17.f5 ♖e5 18.fxe6 ♖xd3 (18...fxe6 19.♞xe6 ♖xd3 20.♙d5 ♙xd5 21.♞xd5) 19.exf7+ ♖d8 20.♙d4 ♖e5 21.♙xe5 dxe5 22.♙d1+ would also have favoured White, but maybe 16...♙d7 was playable – away from the c-file!



#### 17.♙d5! exd5

17...♙d8 is strongly met by 18.e5.

#### 18.exd5 g6 19.♙ac1!

This causes trouble for Black along the c-file.

#### 19...♙a8

19...♙a8 is met by 20.♙e4!

#### 20.dxc6

Now Black would have had the saving 20...♙xg5 after 20.♙e4?.

#### 20...♙xc6 21.f5!

Again, 21.♙e4? was less good, this time in view of 21...♙d7!. But the text leads to a simple win.

#### 21...♙d8 22.♞h6

Black resigned. After 22...f6, 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.♙c6 wins.

### SI 21.3

#### □ Sideif Zade

#### ■ Gofshtein

Aktidubinsk 1985

#### 1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4

♖f6 5.♙c3 e6 6.f4 a6 7.♞f3 ♖b6

#### 8.♖b3

For 8.a3, see the game De Firmian-Yudasin.

#### 8...♖c7

After 8...♖c6 9.♙e3 ♖c7 10.g4 b5 11.g5 ♖d7 12.0-0-0 White also has slightly better prospects.

#### 9.g4! b5 10.g5 ♖fd7

10...b4 may also be playable, e.g. 11.♖b5 axb5 12.gxf6 gxf6 13.♙xb5+ ♖d7 14.f5 ♖b6, with an unclear position, Gipslis-Van Wely, Gausdal 1992.

#### 11.♙e3 b4

Other reasonable possibilities are 11...♙b7 and 11...♙b6.

#### 12.♖e2 ♖b7 13.0-0-0 ♖c6

13...♖c5 has been suggested as an improvement here, but after 14.♖xc5 dxc5 15.f5 e5 16.f6 g6 17.♙h3 ♙c6 18.♙d2 Black had an awkward position in the game Delchev-Orsaga, Andorra 1996.



**14. ♖ed4 ♖c5?!**

14...♞c8!? may be a stronger move.

**15. ♖xc5 ♖xd4**

15...♗xc5 is met by 16.♖b3, followed by 17.♗c4, and Black has no counterplay.

**16. ♖xd4 dxc5 17. ♖e5 ♖c6**

After 17...♖a5 18.♖e4 Black is completely hemmed in!

**18. ♖c4!**

A very strong pawn sacrifice.

**19...♖xe4 19. ♖b3! ♖f3**

19...♗d8 is followed by 20.♞d1 ♖f3 21.♖xe6 ♖xb3 22.♖xb3 ♖xh1 23.♖a4+ ♞d7 24.♖xg7+, and Black is lost.

**20. ♖xe6! ♖xb3**

After 20...fxe6, 21.♖xe6+ ♖e7 22.♖d6 ♖e4 23.♞h1 wins. But swapping the queens won't save Black either. His king is too exposed.

**21. ♖xb3 ♖xh1 22. ♖a4+! ♖e7 23.f5!****23...♞d8**

Black is a rook up, and yet he is lost! 23...f6 24.♞d7+ ♖e8 25.gxf6 gxf6 26.♖xf6 ♖h6+ 27.♖b1 ♖g8 28.♞xh7+ ♖f8 29.♖e7 mate, and 23...♞a7 24.♖d6+ ♖d8 25.♖xc5+ cannot save him.

**24. ♞e1! ♖d5**

Or 24...f6 25.♖xf6++ ♖f7 26.♖xh8.

**25. ♖xg7+**

Black resigned; after 25...♖d6 26.♖e5+ ♖e7 27.♖c7+ ♖e6 28.f6 he is mated.

**SI 21.5**

□ Poliantsev

■ Foigel

Beltis 1999

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 a6 6.♖e3 e6 7.f4 b5 8.♖f3 ♖b7 9.♖d3 ♖bd7 10.g4 h6**

Another option is 10...b4 11.♖ce2 e5 (11...♖e5 12.♖g3 ♖c7) 12.♖b3 d5, with an unclear position. 10...♖e5 has also been played.

**11.0-0 ♖c8 12.g5?!**

Too optimistic! The text hands Black square e5, and White turns out to be powerless on the kingside. By way of an exception, the black king is safe on e8. A better possibility is 12.♖ce2 ♖e5 13.♖g3, with roughly equal prospects.

**12...hxg5 13.fxg5 ♖e5 14.♖g2 ♖f4 15.♖f4 b4 16.♖b1?!**

In order to return to the game via d2. But he never gets around to it. Stronger is 16.♖ce2 ♖e7 17.h3 ♖xd3+ 18.♖d3, although Black is better after 18...♖e5. Lanc-Mokry, Tmava 1984.

**16...♖e7 17.h4**

After 17.h3 Black would have played 17...♖xg5.

**17...♖a5****18.♖e2**

18.a3 bxa3 19.♖xa3 d5 is also good for Black.

**18...♖xa2 19.b3**

Winning the piece backfires: 19.♖xg4? ♖c4 20.c3 bxc3 21.♖xc3 ♖a1+, and the white king is doomed.

**19...♖f2! 20.♖xf2 ♖xe4 21.♖c4 ♖xc4! 22.bxc4?!**

This loses at once. With 22.♖xe5 dxe5 23.bxc4 White could still have put up something of a fight, even though the position after 23...exd4 24.♞h2 0-0 (maybe 24...♖d6! is even stronger) 25.♖xd4 ♖f5 will probably lose as well: Black has overwhelming compensation for the exchange he is down.

**22...♖xc4**

White resigned. After 23.♞d1 ♖xh1 24.♖xh1 ♖b2+ 25.♖d1 ♖xb1+ 26.♖c1 ♖xg5! it's curtains.

**SI 21.7**

□ Spraggett

■ Arakhamia

Bern 1995

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 e6 5.♖c3 d6 6.♖e3 ♖f6 7.f4 a6 8.♖f3 ♖c7 9.0-0-0 ♖e7 10.♞g1**

10.g4 may be followed by 10...♖xd4 11.♖xd4 e5 12.fxe5 dxe5 (but preferably not 12...♖xg4?! in view of 13.♖g3 dxe5 14.♖xe5 ♖c8 15.♞g1!, with advantage for White) 13.♖g3 ♖d6 14.♖e3 ♖xg4 15.♖h5+! axb5 16.♖xb5 ♖c6 17.♖xd6+ ♖f8 18.♖f5! h5, with an unclear position.

**10...0-0 11.g4 ♖xd4**

You'd wonder whether it is wise to allow the white bishop free access to the long diagonal – see the diagrammed position below! But after, for example, 11...♖d7 White will also launch an attack with 12.g5 b5 13.♖h5.

**12.♖xd4 b5**

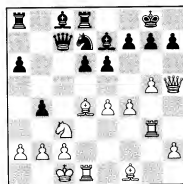
12...e5 weakens the d5 square too much: 13.♖e3 exf4 14.g5! ♖g4 15.♖d5 ♖e5 16.♖xf4 ♖d8 17.♖b6 ♖d7 18.♖f6+! ♖xf6 19.gxf6, and White is winning. Felicio-Roca, correspondence game 1996.

**13.g5 ♖d7 14.♞g3!**

14.f5 also looks strong, but the text is very direct: White simply threatens ♖h5 and ♞h3.

**14...♞d8 15.♖h5 b4**

After 15...g6? it is mate: 16.♖xh7+! ♖xh7 17.♞h3+ ♖g8 18.♞h8, and 15...♖f8 is followed by the winning 16.f5!, with the threat of 17.♖xg7!, which 16...exf5 fails to parry: 17.♖d5 ♖b7 18.♖f6+!

**16.♖xg7! ♖xg7**

After 16...bxc3 17.♞h3 ♖f8 18.♖h6 ♖b7 19.♖xc3 e5 20.f5 ♖xe4 21.♖d3 ♖f4+ 22.♖d2 ♖xg5 23.♞g3 ♖xg3 24.♖xg5 ♖g4 25.f6 the game is over. Thus Spraggett's analysis.

**17.f5 bxc3 18.♖h6+!**

Less clear is 18.f6+?! ♖f8 19.♖xh7 ♖e8!.

**18...♖h8 19.♞h3 ♖xg5+**  
Black's only option, as 19...♖f8 is met by 20.f6, and mate.

**20.♖xg5 cxb2+**

20...♖b6 is followed by 21.bxc3 ♞g8 22.♖h4 ♖f8 23.♖f6+ ♞g7 24.♖g3 ♖g6 25.fxg6 fxg6 26.e5! d5 27.♖xd5, and wins, Spraggett.

**21.♖b1 ♞g8 22.♖h4 ♖g7?!**

More stubborn was 22...c8; after 23.♖f6+ ♔g7 24.♚g3 ♘g6 25.fxg6 fxg6 26.♚xd6! ♖xd6 27.♚d3 ♖xd3 28.♚xd3 White is better, but he will still have to pull the win out of the fire.

**23.f6 ♘xf6 24.♖xf6 ♚b7 25.e5! ♖d8**  
After 25...dxe5 26.♚g3 ♔g8 27.♚xg7 ♔xg7 28.♚d8+ it's all over, while 25...♚e4 26.♚d3 ♘xd3 27.♚hxd3 ♚c8 28.c3 also results in a lost position.

**26.♚d3!**  
Now it is no longer difficult.

**26...♖xf6 27.exf6 ♔g5 28.♚xh7 ♚b8**  
**29.♚e4+ ♘g8 30.♚b3 d5 31.♚d3 ♔g2**  
**32.♚xa6**

Black resigned.

SI 21.11

□ Mokry  
■ Veingold

Manila Olympiad 1992

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4**  
**♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.f4 ♗e7 7.♚d3 ♗c6**  
**8.♗f3 0-0 9.0-0 ♗b4 10.♚e2**

White does not want to without his bishop, but the moves 10.♖e1 and 10.♖h1 have also been played.

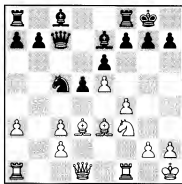
**10...♖b6+**  
10...d5 11.e5 ♗e4 at once is also possible, e.g. 12.a3 ♗xc3 13.bxc3 ♗c6 14.♚d3 ♚d7 15.♖h1 f5, with an approximately equal position. Markovic-Cvetkovic, Sremska Mitrovica 1990.  
**11.♖h1 d5 12.e5 ♗e4 13.a3 ♗xc3**  
**14.bxc3 ♗a6**

The knight could also simply have returned to c6: 14...c6 15.♚d3 f5, with a roughly equal position.

**15.♚d3**  
Back to its old spot!  
**15...c6 16.♚e3 ♖c7**

It is inconceivable that Black has overlooked

the bishop sacrifice on h7, so he must have provoked it on purpose in the expectation that this time it would not be winning. If Black plays correctly, the sacrifice will probably not win, but before long we see Black slipping up. 16...f5 would in any case have been safer.



**17.♚xh7+! ♖xh7 18.♔g5+ ♔xg5?**

The critical move is 18...♔g6!; after 19.♚xc5 ♖xc5 20.♖d3+ f5 21.exf6+ e.p. ♖xf6 22.♖h3 (22.♗h7+ ♖f7 23.♗f8 ♖xf8 yields nothing, which was not what White had in mind, of course) 22...♖c6! (after 22...♚d7?! 23.♚a1 ♖b6 24.f5 e5 (24...exf5? 25.♖h5) 25.♖g3 e4 26.e4 White has ample compensation: 26...dxc4?, for example, doesn't work because of 27.♖c3+ ♖xg5 28.♖xg7+, and mate) 23.♚a1 e5 24.♖h4 e4 25.f5 ♚xf5 26.g4 ♚h8 27.♗xe4+ ♖f7 28.♚xf5+ ♚f6 29.♗g5+ ♖g8 the position is quite unclear.  
**19.fxg5 ♗d7?**

19...g6 is more stubborn, but 20.♖g4 ♗e4 21.♖h4+ ♖g8 22.♚d4 ♖e7 23.f6, followed by 24.♚a1, has to be good for White.  
**20.♖h5+ ♖g8 21.♚f3 ♖xe5**  
21...cxe5 is met by 22.♚h3 f6 23.♖h7+ ♖f7 24.fxf6, and wins.  
**22.♚d4 ♖f5**  
After 22...♖d6 23.♚h3 f6 24.g6 it's finished.  
**23.♚xf5 exf5 24.♚e1 a5 25.♚e3 ♚d8**  
**26.g6**

Black resigned.

SI 22.6

□ Hjartarson  
■ Timman

Reykjavik 1987

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4**  
**♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♚e2 ♗e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4**  
**♗c6 9.♖h1 a6 10.♚f3**

10.♚e3 is more common, but White is leaving the bishop on c1 for the moment.

**10...♖c7 11.♗xc6**

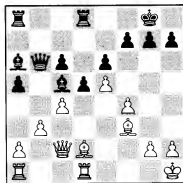
Nothing out of the ordinary. 11.a4 is usually played here, but 11.g4, and even 11.e5, have also been tried.

**11...bxc6 12.♗a4 a5! 13.c4 ♚a6 14.b3**  
**d5!**

Black already has a good position.

**15.e5 ♗d7 16.♖c2 ♖c5 17.♗xc5 ♚xc5**  
**18.♚d1 ♖b6 19.♚d2 ♚fd8?!**

An inaccuracy. Now White suddenly springs to life and equalises the game. After 19...g6! Black is not bad.



**20.f5! dxc4**

Black's best option, although White has a perpetual check combination now. The move 20...♚d4 looks good, but White has 21.fxe6! ♗xa1 (or 21...fxe6 22.♚xa5 ♖xa5 23.♚xd4 dxc4 24.♚h4+, with an attack) 22.exf7+ ♖xf7 23.♖xh7, with strong and probably winning attacking threats. Variations by Timman.

**21.fxe6 fxe6 22.♚e4 h6 23.♚xh6! gxh6**  
**24.♚xc6! ♚xd1+ 25.♚xd1 ♖xc6**  
**26.♖g6+ ♖h8 27.♖xh6+**  
And a draw was agreed.

SI 23.1

□ Morgado  
■ Kletsel

Correspondence game 1982

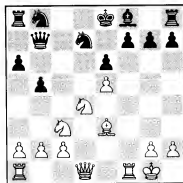
**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4**  
**♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♚e3 e6 7.♚e2 ♖c7**  
**8.f4 b5 9.♗f3 ♚b7 10.e5**

Sharp play. 10.a3 is a calmer continuation.

**10...dxe5 11.♚xb7 ♖xb7**

Here 11...exd4! is a very good alternative; after 12.♚xa8 dxc3 Black has compensation for the exchange, e.g. 13.♖f3 ♚a3! 14.♗d1 ♚xb2 15.♗xb2 ♖c3+ 16.♖f1?! (a better move is 16.♚e2, although 16...♖xc2+ 17.♖xe3 ♖xb2 18.♚hb1 ♖c3+ 19.♖f2 ♖d4+ 20.♖f1 0-0 is probably not bad for Black then) 16...♖xb2 17.♚e1 0-0, with advantage for Black, Palac-V.Gurevich, Pula 1994.

**12.fxe5 ♗d7 13.0-0**



**13...b4?!**

Now White gets good prospects. Equally du-bious, according to the white player, is the

winning the pawn with 13... $\text{Qxe5!}$  in view of 14. $\text{Wh5}$   $\text{Qg6}$  15. $\text{Wh3}$ ! An alternative is 13... $\text{Qe7}$  or 13... $\text{Qc6}$  in order to make up for Black's lag in development.

**14. Wh5!**

After 14. $\text{Qa4?}$ ! Black can probably afford to play 14... $\text{Qxe5}$ . With the text, White makes a promising piece sacrifice.

**14...g6 15. Wh3 bxc3**



**16. Qxf7! cxb2**

Bad is 16... $\text{Qxf7?}$  17. $\text{Wxc6+ Qg7}$  18. $\text{Qf5+! gxf5}$  19. $\text{Qh6}$ , mate; but 16... $\text{Qd5?}$  is a possibility, and after 17. $\text{Qaf1}$  things are unclear. **17. Wxe6+ Qd8 18. Qb1 Qc5 19. Wc4 Qe8**

White can meet 19... $\text{Qxd4}$  with 20. $\text{Wxd4! Qc6}$  21. $\text{Wd5}$ , and Black is in insurmountable difficulties.

**20. Qh1!**

A subtle move. Less clear is 20.e6?!  $\text{We4!}$  21... $\text{Qg5+ Qc8}$  22. $\text{exd7+ Qxd7}$ .

**20...Qxe5**

Other moves are not satisfactory for Black either: 20... $\text{Qxe5}$  21. $\text{Qg5+}$ , or 20... $\text{Qxd4}$  21. $\text{Wxd4 Qc6}$  22. $\text{Qxb2!}$ , or 20... $\text{Qa7}$  21. $\text{Qxh7}$ . Variations by White.

**21. Qe6+ Qxe6 22. Wxe6 Qxe3 23. Wxe3** Now an important point of White's 20th move is revealed: Black cannot swap queens with  $\text{Wb6}$ .

**23...Wd5 24. Qe7! Qf6**

Or 24... $\text{Qc7}$  25.e4  $\text{Wxc4}$  26.  $\text{We5+}$ .

**25. Qe5 Wb7 26. Qd1+ Qbd7 27. Wc5 Wa7**

Or 27...b1  $\text{Wc8}$   $\text{Wf8+ Qc7}$  29. $\text{Qc5+ Qxc5}$  30. $\text{Wd6+ Qc8}$  31. $\text{Wd8}$  mate!

**28. Wc6**

Black resigned.

SI 23.4

□ Smyslov

■ Grigorian

Moscow 1976

**1.e4 c5 2.Qf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Qf6 5.Qc3 a6 6.Qe2 e6 7.0-0 Wc7 8.f4 Qbd7 9.a4 b6 10.Qf3 Qb7 11.Qe2 e5?!**

A somewhat dubious move. Preventing the advance e4-e5 has no priority in this position (yet). Better is simply 11... $\text{Qe7}$ .

**12. Qd5! Qxd5**

After 12... $\text{Wc5}$  White plays 13.b4, with the point of 13... $\text{Wxd4+?}$  14. $\text{Qc3}$ , and he wins the queen; 14... $\text{Wb2}$  15. $\text{Qb1}$ .

**13.exd5 g6 14.Qc6 Qg7 15.fxe5 Qxe5** 15... $\text{dxe5}$  could be followed by 16.d6 (or simply 16. $\text{Qe3}$  0-0 17. $\text{Wc4}$ ) 16... $\text{Wxd6}$  17. $\text{Qxe5 Wxe5}$  18. $\text{Wxe5+ Qxe5}$  19. $\text{Qxb7 Qa7}$  20. $\text{Qd5}$ , with the better prospects for White.

**16. Qxe5 Qxe5**

16... $\text{dxe5}$  17.d6!  $\text{Wd7}$  18. $\text{Qh6!}$  is very good for White.

**17. Qh6 f6**

Building a hidey-hole for the king on f7; a strong reply to 17...0-0 could have been 18. $\text{Wf2 Qxb2}$  19. $\text{Qa2 Qc3}$  20. $\text{Qb1 Qa5}$  21. $\text{Qc3}$ .

**18.c4 Qf7 19.Qg4 Qc8 20.Qxc8 Qaxc8?**

Black is completely unsuspecting... Necessary was 20... $\text{Wxc8}$ , when White remains better after 21. $\text{Qe3 Qe8}$  22. $\text{Wd3 Qb8}$  23. $\text{Qa2}$  and 24.b3.



**21. Qxf6!**

This bull's eye wins at once.

**21...Qxf6**

21... $\text{Qxf6}$  is met by 22. $\text{We6}$ , mate.

**22. Wg4!**

A beautiful silent move to demonstrate the point. The king is caught.

**22...Wc5+ 23. Qh1 Qe7 24. Qg5+**

Black resigned.

SI 24.2

□ Lasker

■ Pirc

Moscow 1935

**1.e4 c5 2.Qf3 Qc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Qf6 5.Qc3 d6 6.Qe2 e6 7.0-0 a6 8.Qe3 Qc7 9.f4 Qa5?!**

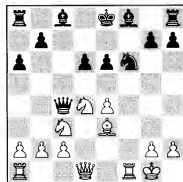
It is of vital importance, also – or particularly in the Sicilian, to follow the general rules to the letter. In this situation, for instance, the wise option for Black is to finish his development with 9... $\text{Qe7}$  and 10...0-0 before attempting anything else.

**10.f5 Qc4?!**

10... $\text{Qe7}$  is still better.

**11.Qxc4 Wxc4 12.fxe6 fxe6?**

Now White already has a forced win! Black's only move was 12... $\text{Qxe6}$ , after which White is better because of the backward d6 pawn.



**13. Qxf6! gxf6 14. Wh5+ Qd8**

Other king moves are no better: 14... $\text{Qd7}$  15. $\text{Wf7+ Qe7}$  16. $\text{Qf5! Qe8}$  17. $\text{Qd1 d5}$  18. $\text{Qxd5 Qe7}$ , or 14... $\text{Qe7}$  15. $\text{Qf5+! exf5}$  16. $\text{Qd5 Qd8}$  17... $\text{Qb6+ Qd7}$  18.  $\text{Wf7+ Qc6}$  19.  $\text{Wc7+}$ .

**15. Wf7 Qd7**

Or 15... $\text{Qe7}$  16. $\text{Qf5 Qe8}$  17. $\text{Qxd6 Qxd6}$  18. $\text{Qb6+ Qc7}$  19. $\text{Qd1+}$ , and mate.

**16. Wxf6+ Qc7 17. Wxh8 Qh6 18. Qxe6! Qxe6 19. Wxa8 Qxe3+ 20. Qh1**

Black resigned.

SI 24.8

□ Reinderman

■ Arlandi

Mondariz 2000

**1.e4 c5 2.Qf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Qf6 5.Qc3 d6 6.Qe2 a6 7.0-0 Qxe7 8.a4 Qc6 9.Qe3 0-0 10.f4 Qc7 11.Qh1 Qe8** Kasparov's favourite continuation.

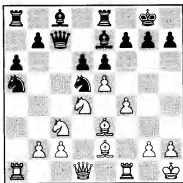
**12.a5**

This remarkable plan was first used by Alexander Goloschapov from the Ukraine during the 1997 Junior world championship, and is, apparently, a brainchild of Nikiitin, Kasparov's former trainer.

**12...Qxa5 13.e5 Qd5?**

A serious error. In order to avoid getting into

trouble. Black should also have accepted the second pawn. After 13...dxe5 14.fxe5 ♖xe5 15.♔f4 ♖e6 16.♔a4 ♖a7 17.♔c7 (17...♔e3!?) is another possibility) the black king find itself in hot water, but with 17...b5 or 17...♔c6 Black can sacrifice an exchange to gain some measure of freedom. 17...♔d8? 18.♔xd8 ♔xd8 19.♔b5!, however, is deadly; the mating threat on the bottom rank forced Black to resign in Zelcic-Vismara, Bled 2001.



#### 14. ♔xe6!

This sneaky combination, which has already claimed numerous victims, is based on the fact that the a5 knight is not covered.

#### 14... ♔xe6

The double attack after 14...fxe6 15.♔xd5 exd5 16.♖xd5+ ♖h8 17.♖xa5 works because 17...♔e6 is refuted by 18.♖xe6! ♖xa5 19.♔d3 dxe5 20.♔b6! ♖d2 21.♖f5.

#### 15. ♔xd5 ♔xd5 16. ♖xd5 ♔c6

One of the stem games saw 16...b5? 17.e6 fxe6 18.♖xe6+ ♖h8 19.♔h5 1-0, Goloschapo-Karner, Zagan 1997.

#### 17. ♔c4!

This assault on f7 is stronger than the direct 17.e6! ♔f6!, and Black has counterplay.

#### 17... dxe5

Practice has shown that it is almost impossible to defend f7 satisfactorily. e.g. 17...♔f8 18.e6! or 17...♔f8 18.♔b6 ♖d7 19.♔d1 (19.♔c5; 19.c3) 19...♔b4 (thus far Yu Shao-

teng-Ding Linlin, Tianjin 2001), and here 20.♖a5 is strong.

After 17...♔d8 Molokitin indicates 18.♔d1 ♔e8 19.♔b3 dxe5 20.fxe5 ♔f8 21.♖d7 ♖xd7 22.♔xd7 ♖xe5 23.♔b6, with advantage for White.

#### 18. ♖xf7+ ♖h8 19. ♔d3! ♖d6

The peace offering 19...e4 20.♔xe4 ♔d6 is of little use: 21.♖f5! g6 22.♖f6+ ♖g7 23.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 24.♔a4.

#### 20. ♔xh7!

The final blow. The black king position is dismantled.

#### 20... ♔xh7

Refusing the offer also loses, as the result of several games has shown: 20...♖h6 21.♔d3 ♔h4 22.f5! ♖xe3 23.f6 ♔xf6 24.♔xf6 1-0, Yakovenko-Voitsekhevsky, Moscow 2000.

The endgame after 20...♔f8 21.♖h5 ♖h6 22.♖xh6 gxh6 23.♔e4 exf4 24.♔xf4 ♔xf4 25.♔xf4 (Mkrтчian-Peng, Varna 2002) is utterly hopeless.

#### 21. ♔f3 ♔h4 22. ♔h3 ♖f6 23. ♖h5+ ♖h6

#### 24. ♖g4 ♖g8 25. ♔xh4 ♖f6 26. f5 e4

#### 27. ♔f1 ♔e5 28. ♖h5 ♔ac8 29. ♔g5

Black resigned.

SI 24.8

□ Glek

■ Savchenko

Paris 2000

1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♔c3 a6 6.♔e2 e6 7.0-0 e7 8.f4 ♖c7 9.a4 ♔c6 10.♔e3 0-0 11.♖h1 ♔e8 12.♔g1

Besides 12.a5, White can also play 12.♖e1, 12.♖d2, 12.♔d3 or 12.♔f3; a wide choice.

#### 12... ♔b8

And Black can also play 12...♔d4, 12...♔b4 or 12...♔f8 here, all of them reasonable moves.

#### 13. ♔d3 ♔d7

In the game Glek-Ulbin, Vienna 1998, there followed 13...♔b4 14.♖e1 ♔d7 15.a5 ♔bc8

16.♖g3 ♔c6 17.♖h3 ♔f8 18.♔f3 ♔xd3 19.cxd3 ♔d7 20.g4, and White had good attacking chances.

#### 14. ♖f3 ♔xd4!?

This swap is slightly dubious. See also the game Spraggett-Arakhmia, SI 21.7. Maybe 14...♔f8 or 14...e5 are better options.

#### 15. ♔xd4 ♔c6

After 15...e5 16.fxe5 dxe5 Glek has indicated the strong 17.♔d5!, e.g. 17...♔xd5?! (17...♖d6 is met by 18.♔c3) 18.♖xf7+ ♖h8 19.exd5 ♔g4 (after 19...exd4 20.♖h5 it's finished at once) 20.♔f5! exd4 (or 20...♔f8 21.♔xe5 ♔xf7 22.♔xc7 ♔xf5 23.♔xb8 ♔xd3 24.exd3, with a winning endgame) 21.♔g5! g6 22.♔xg6! ♔xg5 23.♖xc7 hxg6 24.♖g3, and White wins.

#### 16.a5 ♔d7?!

Taking away the knight from the kingside is pretty risky. Better was 16...♔b8, when 17.♖g3 is good for White, e.g. 17...d5 18.♔e5 ♖d8 19.♔f1, according to Glek.

#### 17. ♖h3 ♔c5?

And this quickly has fatal consequences for Black. He should have played 17...h6, followed by 18.f5 (or else 18.♔f3!?, 18.♔d5!?, or 18.g4!?. White has an abundance of attacking ideas!) 18...♔f6 19.fxe6 fxe6 20.♔xf6 ♔xf6 21.♔xf6!?! gxh6 22.♖xh6 ♖g7 23.♖f4 ♔b8 24.♔f1, and the white attack continues, Glek.

#### 18.f5! ♔f8

#### 19. ♔xg7!

A fine sacrifice that wins by force.

#### 19... ♔xg7

Or 19...♔xg7 20.f6 ♔f8 21.♔f4 h6 22.♔g4+ ♖h8 (22...♔h7 is also met by 23.♖g3) 23.♖g3, and Black might as well resign.

#### 20.f6+ ♖h8 21.♔f4 h6 22. ♔h4 ♖h7

#### 23.g4! ♖g6

After 23...e5 White plays 24.g5 ♔e6 25.♔xh6+ ♔xh6 26.♖xh6+ ♖g8 27.♔d5 ♖d7 (or 27...♖d8 28.g6) 28.♔g1 b5 29.♔g3, and wins, Glek.

#### 24.♔f1

Black resigned. It is all over bar the shouting, e.g. 24...♔d3 25.g5 (or 25.♔xh6 ♔xh6 26.♖h5+ ♖h7 27.g5) 25...hxg5 26.♔h8.

SI 24.11

□ Balinov

■ Kragev

Bled 1999

#### 1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 ♔c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4

#### ♖c7 5.♔c3 e6 6.♔e2 a6 7.0-0 ♔f8 8.e3

#### ♔e7 9.f4 d6 10.♖e1 0-0 11.♖g3 ♔xd4

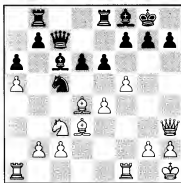
11...♔d7 is another much-played move.

#### 12.♔xd4 b5 13.a3 ♔b7 14.♔a1 ♔c6

#### 15.♔d3 e5

This move is a well-known way to equalise in this position. But here White has a trick up his sleeve! Another interesting line is 15...♔h5 16.♖h3 e5 (Black switches the moves around!), but this is followed by 17.♖xh3 exd4 18.♔d5 ♔xd5 19.exd5 g6 20.♖h6 ♔f8 21.f5 ♔f8 22.♔xe8 ♔xe8 23.♖f4, with advantage for White, according to an analysis by the Chinese grandmaster Wang Zili. But after 15...♔h5 16.♖h3 a good possibility might be 16...♔xf4!?: 17.♔xf4 e5 18.♔g4 exd4 19.♖h6 g6 20.♔g3 dxc3 21.♔h3 ♔h4 22.♔xb4 f6, with an unclear position, Kasparov and Nikitin.

#### 16.fxe5 ♔h5 17.exd6!?



After simply 17. ♖h3 dxe5 18. ♖e3 g6 the position is roughly equal.

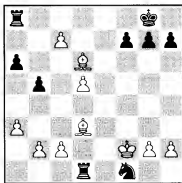
**17... ♖xg3 18. dxc7 ♖xf1 19. ♖d5!**  
After 19. ♖xf1 ♖d6 White has nothing.

**19... ♖xd5**  
No stronger is 19... ♗fe8 20. ♖xf1 ♗ac8 (now 20... ♖xd5 is good for White: 21. exd5 ♖d6 22. ♗xe8+ ♗xe8 23. ♖b6 ♖e8 24. ♖f5 ♗xc7 25. ♗xc7 ♗xc7 26. b4) 21. ♖xe7+ ♗xe7 22. ♖b6, with advantage for White, Wang Zili-Liang Jinrong, Beijing 1993.

**20. exd5 ♖d6 21. ♖e5 ♗fe8**  
After 21... ♖xe5 22. ♗xe5 ♖d2, 23. d6 wins, e.g. 23... ♗ac8 24. ♖f5 or 23... ♗a7 24. ♖c5.

**22. ♖xd6 ♖xe1 23. ♖f2**  
23. ♖b4? ♖d2+ 24. ♖f2 ♖e5 is good for Black.

**23... ♖d1**



**24. ♖c5!**  
Carlsson-Bjuhr, correspondence game 1995, saw 24. ♖f4? ♗xd3! 25. cxd3 ♖f8 26. ♖xf1 ♖e7. The black king reaches the white passed pawns in time, and White might not even manage to keep the draw. The text looks like winning.

**24... ♖h2 25. ♖g3! ♖f1+ 26. ♖f4**  
Black resigned. And his position has to be lost: 26... ♖e1 27. d6 g5+ 28. ♖f3 ♖d2+ 29. ♖f2 ♖e8 30. ♖b6!, or 26... g5+ 27. ♖xg5 f6+ (or 27... ♖e1 28. ♖f4 ♖g3 29. ♖xg3 ♖e5

30. ♖b4!) 28. ♖xf6 ♖g3 (or 28... ♖e1 29. ♖f5) 29. d6 ♖h5+ 30. ♖e6.

SI 24.11

□ Shirov  
■ Benjamin

Horgen 1994

**1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖c6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♖e2 ♗c7 7. ♖e3 ♖f6 8. 0-0 ♖e7 9. f4 d6 10. ♖e1 0-0 11. ♖g3**

**♖xd4 12. ♖xd4 b5 13. a3 ♖b7 14. ♖h1**  
White can also play 14. ♗ae1 at once. See the previous game Balinov-Kragelj.

**14... ♖c6 15. ♗ae1 ♖b7 16. ♖d3 b4 17. ♖d1**

17. axb4 ♖xb4 18. ♖e2 has been played here as well, e.g. 18... ♖b7 19. e5 ♖h5 20. ♖h3 g6 21. ♖g3 dxe5 22. ♖xe5 ♖xg3+ 23. hxg3 ♖b5!?, with approximately equal play, Shirov-Ivanchuk, Linares 1993.

**17... ♖g6?!**

This is probably not a good idea. A better option seems to be 17... bxa3 18. bxa3 ♗ac8 (or 18... d5!? 19. e5 ♖e4, suggested by Nikiitin and Kasparov) 19. ♖f2 ♖h5 20. ♖f3 g6 21. ♖g4 f6, with complicated play and roughly equal prospects, Shirov-Movsesian, Sarajevo 2000.

**18. ♖f2 bxa3 19. bxa3 ♖h5**

Having played g6, Black can not really afford to go 19... d5: 20. e5 ♖e4 21. ♖xe4 dxe4 22. ♖g4 ♗f8 23. ♖h6+, with an attack, Sznapiak-Smejkal, Sandomierz 1976.

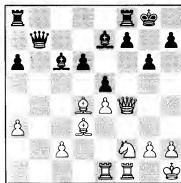
**20. ♖e3 ♖xf4?!**

This looks good, but there is a hitch. However, 20... f5 won't do either in view of 21. ♖e4! d5 22. exf5! exf5 (22... dxc4 is met by 23. ♖xe6+ ♗f7 24. fxg6 hxg6 25. ♖xg6+ ♖g7 26. ♖g4!, winning) 23. ♖b3 ♖f6 24. ♖d3, with advantage for White, Shirov.

The Pole Ksieski has suggested 20... ♗fe8 21. ♖g4 ♖f8, but then 22. f5, with the point of

22... exf5? 23. ♖xf5!, looks strong.

**21. ♖xf4 e5**



**22. ♖g4! f6?!**

Black keeps the fork in place for a while longer, but the text has serious drawbacks. 22... exf4? runs into 23. ♖h6, mate, of course, but 22... exd4 was worth trying, even though White is better after 23. ♖h6+ ♖g7 24. ♖xf7 ♖g5 25. ♖xg5 ♗xf7 26. e5!. Thus Shirov.

**23. ♖c4+ ♖h8**

23... ♖g7 runs into the devastating 24. ♖h6+ ♖h8 25. ♗f3!, e.g. 25... ♖xe4 26. ♖xe4! ♖xe4 27. ♖h3 g5 28. ♖d3.

**24. ♖xe5! dxe5 25. ♖xe5 ♖g7**

After 25... ♗xe5 White plays 26. ♖xe5+ ♖f6 (or 26... ♗f6 27. ♖xf6 ♖g7 28. ♖xc6+) 27. ♖xf6 ♖g7 28. ♗f7+ ♖h6 29. ♖g7+, and wins.

**26. ♖f4 ♗ad8**

Black is still alive, but he is a pawn down and his position is riddled with holes. White finishes the job quickly.

**27. c3 h6 28. ♖b1 ♗a8 29. ♖b6! ♖xd4**

Desperation! No better was 29... ♖xe4 30. ♖e1 ♖xg2+ 31. ♖g1 ♖de8 32. ♖xe7+ ♖xe7 33. ♖xf6, and Black might as well resign.

**30. cxd4 ♖xe4 31. ♖e1 f5**

31... ♖xg2+ is no good either now: 32. ♖g1 ♖d8 33. ♖b8 ♗f3 34. ♖xd8! ♖xf4 35. ♖e7+, and mate.

**32. ♖e5+ ♖f6 33. ♖xf6**

Black resigned. After 33... ♖xf6 White decides the issue with 34. ♖e7+.

## Sozin and Velimirovic Variations

Black plays 2...♟c6 and 5...d6, White plays 6.♟c4

SI 26.2

□ Madl  
 ■ Chiburdanidze

Batumi 2000

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♟c3 ♟c6 6.♟c4 e6 7.♟e3 a6  
 8.♟b3 ♟c7 9.f4 ♟e7 10.♟f3

A good alternative is 10.0-0; 10...0-0 11.♟f3  
 ♟xd4 12.♟xd4 b5 13.e5 gives rise to interesting  
 positions. The books will tell you more.

10...♟xd4 11.♟xd4 b5 12.e5  
 Sharp play! Good for Black is 12.0-0-0 ♟b7,  
 but 12.f5 is also an option.  
 12...dxe5 13.fxe5

13.♟xa8?! is very risky; after 13...exd4  
 14.♟e2 0-0 15.♟f3 ♟b7 16.♟h3 ♟b4+ 17.c3  
 dxc3 18.bxc3 ♟c5 Black has good play for  
 the exchange.

13...♟b7 14.♟g3 ♟e4!?

This was a new move in the days this game  
 was played. The books of the time gave  
 14...♟h5 15.♟g4 ♟6 16.0-0-0 0-0, with the  
 assessment "unclear", but 15.♟f2!? may be  
 stronger.

15.♟xg7?

This looks very dubious, and the refutation  
 duly follows. Simply 15.♟xe4 ♟xe4 16.0-0  
 0-0 resulted in an equal position.

15...0-0-0 16.♟f1

16.0-0 is met by 16...♟d8, and after both  
 17.♟xf7 and 17.♟h6 White loses her queen  
 with 17...♟g5+.

17.♟f1 (17.0-0-0? ♟d8 loses the queen  
 again) 17...♟g6, and White is in serious trouble.

16...♟h8 17.♟xf7

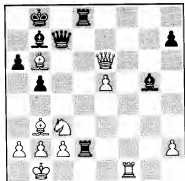
17.♟h7 is met by 17...♟g5 18.♟d3 ♟c5  
 19.♟f4 ♟xd4! 20.♟xd4 ♟xe5+ 21.♟e2 ♟xd4  
 22.♟xd4 ♟f3+! 23.gxf3 ♟xd4 24.♟xd4  
 ♟g1+, and Black has a winning endgame.

17...♟g2 18.♟xe6+

18.♟xe4 is no better; after 18...♟xd4  
 19.♟xe6+ (or 19.♟d6+ ♟b8), 19...♟b8  
 Black wins.

18...♟b8 19.0-0-0 ♟g5+ 20.♟b1 ♟d2+  
 21.♟xd2 ♟xd2 22.♟b6

This is probably what White had intended. But  
 Black throws a serious spanner in the works!



22...♟xc3! 23.♟xd8

23.bxc3 runs into 23...♟d1+ 24.♟d1 ♟xd1+  
 25.♟b2 ♟c1+, and mate on the next move.  
 23...♟f3!

The point of the move 22...♟xc3! The queen  
 is untouchable in view of mate on d1, which is  
 very much on the cards anyway.

24.♟c7+ ♟xc7 25.♟f7+ ♟xf7 26.♟xf7+  
 ♟d7

White resigned.

SI 26.6

□ Ankerst  
 ■ Panchenko

Bled 1992

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♟c3 d6 6.♟c4 e6 7.♟e3 ♟e7 8.f4  
 0-0

Also interesting is 8...d5!?, which is followed  
 by 9.exd5 exd5 10.♟b5 ♟d7 11.♟f3, with an  
 unclear position.

9.♟f3 ♟xd4

After 9...♟a5 White simply goes 10.♟d3.

10.♟xd4 e5

Another reasonable idea is 10...♟a5 11.0-0,  
 and only then 11...e5.

11.♟e3

11.fxe5 dxe5 12.♟xe5 is met by 12...♟g4  
 13.fxe4 ♟d4 14.♟d3 ♟b4! 15.♟d2 ♟c5, and  
 Black has compensation for the pawn, according  
 to Panchenko.

11...exf4 12.♟xf4

After 12.♟xf4, 12...♟g4 looks like a good  
 reply.

12...♟a5 13.♟b3 ♟g4 14.♟d3?!

Better was 14.♟g3 when, according to Pan-  
 chenko, 14...♟d7 is Black's strongest reply.

14...d5!

Another pawn sacrifice!

15.exd5

15.e5 is followed by 15...d4! 16.♟xd4 ♟d7  
 17.♟d5 ♟c5, with compensation, while after  
 15.♟d5 ♟xd5 16.♟xd5 ♟b6 17.♟b3 ♟d4  
 Black also has good play for the pawn.

15...♟c5 16.h3?!

White should have played 16.♟d2! at once,

although Black has good prospects after  
 16...♟f8 17.♟ac1 ♟b4, again according to  
 Panchenko.

16...♟f8+ 17.♟d2?

Now this move is nicely refuted. Correct was  
 17.♟f1, with good prospects for Black after  
 17...♟h5 (or 17...♟d7!?) 18.g4 ♟6 19.♟b5  
 ♟xb5+ 20.♟xb5 ♟e4, Panchenko.



17...♟e2! 18.♟f5

After 18.♟xe2 ♟xc2+ 19.♟xe2 ♟b4 White  
 has to be lost.

18...♟e4+ 19.♟c1 ♟xc3! 20.♟xe4

Or 20.bxc3 ♟a3+ 21.♟b1 ♟xc3 mate!

20...♟xe4

White resigned.

SI 26.6

□ De Firmian  
 ■ Grischuk

Esbjerg 2000

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.♟c3 d6 4.d4 cxd4  
 5.♟xd4 ♟f6 6.♟c4 e6 7.♟e3 ♟e7 8.f4  
 0-0 9.♟f3 e5!?

Black can also play 9...a6 or 9...♟a5, or even  
 9...♟xd4 10.♟xd4 e5 – as in Ankerst-  
 Panchenko.

10.♟xc6 bxc6 11.f5

After 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.h3 Black can choose

between 12...♙e6 and 12...♙e8, in both cases with approximately equal play.

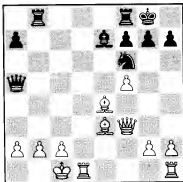
### 11...♙a5 12.0-0-♚b7

An alternative is 12...♚b8!?, e.g. 13.♙b3 (according to Golubev White should play 13.♙d2!? now to prevent the coming exchange sacrifice) 13...♚xb3! 14.cxb3 d5 15.exd5 cxd5 16.♙xd5 ♗xd5 17.♗xd5 ♙d6 18.♙d1 ♗xa2 19.♙f6+ ♗h8! (19...♗xf6? loses: 20.♙h6 ♗h8 (the only move) 21.♙xf8, Gaprindashvili-Hartoch, Amsterdam 1976, as 21...♙xf8 is met by 22.♙d8) 20.♙d6 ♗xf6 21.♙h6?! (21.♙d2 looks better) 21...♙g8 22.♙d2? (this is very bad; White must not relinquish square a6) 22...♙a1+ 23.♙c2 ♙a6 24.g4 ♙b7, and Black had a winning attack, Borkowski-Tupek, Slupsk 1992.

### 13.♙b3 d5!? 14.exd5

White is as good as forced to accept the pawn sacrifice, as after 14.♙d2!?, 14...♙b4! 15.a3 ♙xc3 16.♙xc3 ♙c7 is good for Black.

### 14...cxd5 15.♙xd5 ♙xd5 16.♙xd5 e4 17.♙xe4 ♙ab8



### 18.♙d5!

18.♙b1? runs into 18...♚xb2+, and mate, while 18.a3? is met by 18...♚xb2!, and it is plain to see that this also wins.

### 18...♚xb2!

The consequence of what went before; but now things are less clear.

### 19.♗xb2 ♗xd5 20.♙xd5?!

Now Black has perpetual check. 20.♙xd5? was clearly not possible in view of 20...♙a3+, and mate, but with Golubev's suggestion of 20.♙d4! White could have tested the correctness of Black's play. The question is whether Black would have enough compensation for the sacrificed exchange after, for example 20...♙b8+ 21.♙a1 ♗b4 22.♙b3 ♙xf5 (22...♗c6? is met by 23.♙g3) 23.♙d2 ♙f4 24.♙c3.

### 20...♙a3+ 21.♙b1 ♙xd5 22.♙xd5 ♙b8+ 23.♙a1 ♙b2+ 24.♙b1

Draw.

## SI 26.7

□ Pavlov

■ Kharitonov

Correspondence game 1986

### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙e3 ♙e7 8.♙e2

The notorious Velimirovic Attack.

### 8...0-0 9.0-0-0 a6 10.♙b3 ♙c7 11.g4

For the second main line, 11.♙h1. I refer to the games that can be found under the code SI 26.8 below.

### 11...♗xd4 12.♙xd4

After 12.♙xd4 Black can probably safely play 12...e5 13.♙e3 ♙xc4.

### 12...♗d7

Now 12...e5?! is dubious in view of 13.♙c4 ♙d8 14.g5, e.g. after 14...♗d7 15.♙xc8! ♙xc8 16.♗d5 ♙d8 17.h4, and Black's position isn't all that great.

### 13.g5 b5

The alternative is 13...♗c5. I have to refer you to the theory books.

### 14.♙h5 ♙d8 15.♙g1 ♗c5 16.e5

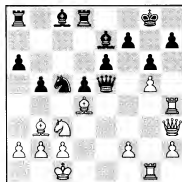
In order to take the rook quickly to h4. An alternative is 16.♙g3, which could be followed by 16...g6 17.♙h6 ♙f8 18.♙h4 ♙e7! 19.f4 h5 20.f5 ♙b8, with an unclear position. Thus

Nikitin.

### 16...g6 17.♙h3 d5

17...♙b7? fails to 18.♙h4 ♗xb3+ 19.axb3 h5 20.♙xh5! ♗xh5 21.♙xh5, e.g. 21...♙f8 22.g6 ♙g6 23.♙g6+ ♙g7 24.♙h6 ♙d7 25.exd6, and Black cannot keep ♙g7 sufficiently covered.

### 18.♙h4 ♙xe5 19.♙d4



### 19...♗xb3+?!

Nikitin has indicated 19...♙f5!? as stronger: 20.♙g3 (20.♙xh7? won't work in view of 20...♗xb3+ 21.axb3 ♙xh3 22.♙xh3 e5 23.♙e3 exd4 24.♙xe7 dxc3) 20...♗e4! 21.♗e4 dxe4.

The position seems to favour Black. It is doubtful whether White has compensation for the sacrificed pawn; after 22.♙e5 ♙b7, 23.♙xh7 fails to 23...♙g5+.

### 20.axb3 ♙f5 21.♙g3 ♙b7

Here 21...f6 22.♙xf6 ♙xf6 23.♙f4! ♙xd4 24.♙xf5 exf5 25.♙h4! ♙b6 26.♙e6 is good for White. After inserting 21...e5! 22.♙xe5 Black can safely play 22...f6: 23.♙xf6 ♙xf6 24.♙xf6 ♙xf6 25.♙d1 ♙e6 26.♙h4, and White is better, but only marginally so.

### 22.♙b1!

22.♙h7? is impossible again in view of 22...♙g5+.

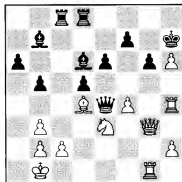
### 22...♙d6 23.f4 h5

Now the threat of capturing on h7 became reality!

### 24.gxh6 e.p. ♗h7 25.♗d1!

White has the position completely under control. Black is probably already lost.

### 25...♙ac8 26.♗e3 ♙e4



### 27.♙g5!

Well played!

### 27...♙xd4 28.f5 ♙e5

28...♙xh4 loses at once in view of 29.fxg6+, while 28...♙xe3 29.♙xe3 exf5 is hopeless as well: 30.♙d4 ♙f8 31.♙f6 ♙d7 32.♙e1, and White should win.

### 29.fxg6+ ♗h8

Or 29...fxg6 30.♙xg6+ ♗h8 31.h7, and mate. 30.g7+ ♗h7 31.♙g8+! ♙xg8 32.♙g7+! ♙xg7 33.hxg7+ ♗g8 34.♙h8 Mate.

## SI 26.8

□ Bosch

■ Gross

Schöneck 1996

### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙e3 a6 8.♙e2 ♙c7 9.♙b3 ♙e7 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.♙h1 ♗xd4?!

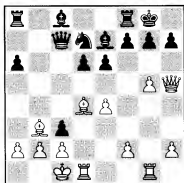
11...b5 and 11...♗d7 are stronger continuations.

### 12.♙xd4 b5 13.g4 ♗d7 14.g5 b4

There is nothing for it except to bite the bullet – 14...g6 15.f4 b4 (or 15...e5 16.f5) 16.♘a4 is good for White, Bosch.

#### 15.♖h5! bxc3

15...♙e8 is met by 16.g6!, and wins. For 15...♙e5, see the game Boto-Buntic.



#### 16.♞d3!

16.g6? at once is too hasty: 16...fxg6 17.♙xe6+ ♖h8 18.♙xg6 ♙e9 19.dg1 ♙f6, and White resigned, Link-Cebalo, Cannes 1993.

#### 16...♞d8

Other moves are no better: 16...♙b7 17.♙h3 ♙xe4 18.g6!, or 16...♙e8 17.g6! hxg6 18.♙xg6, or 16...♖b7 17.♙g4! ♙e8 18.f3 g6 19.♖xh7+, and White wins in all cases.

#### 17.g6! hxg6 18.♙xg6 ♙e5

Or 18...♙f6 19.♙xf6 ♙xf6 20.♙xf6 gxf6 21.♖h7 d5 22.♙h3, and it's over. According to Bosch, the same goes for 18...♙f8 19.♙h3.

#### 19.♙xg7+! ♙xg7 20.♙g3+ ♙g5+ 21.♙xg5+ ♙f8 22.♙h3 cxb2- 23.♖b1 ♖e8

After 23...♙f6, 24.♙h8+! wins: 24...♙xh8 25.♙g7+ ♖e8 (25...♖e7 26.♙f6+ ♖d7 27.♙a4+) 26.♙a4+ ♙d7 27.♖xh8+ ♖e7 28.♙f6 mate!

#### 24.♙h8+ ♖d7 25.♙a4+ ♙c6 26.♙xd8+

And Black resigned in view of 26...♙xh8 27.♙xc6+ ♖c7 28.♙xd8+, or 28.♙b6+.

### SI 26.8

□ Boto

■ Buntic

Bosnia-Herzegovina 2001

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♙f6 5.♙c3 ♙c6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙e3 ♙e7 8.♖e2 0-0 9.0-0-0 ♖c7 10.♙b3 a6 11.♙hg1 ♙d7 12.g4 ♙xd4 13.♙xd4 b5 14.g5 b4 15.♖h5 ♙e5

Up to this point, everything is as in the game Bosch-Gross. Now Black tries a change of tack.

#### 16.f4 ♙g6

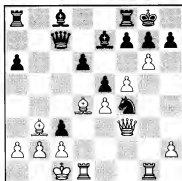
16...♙c6 is met by 17.♙f6! bxc3 18.♖h6, and wins. Maybe Black could have played 16...bxc3.

#### 17.f5! ♙f4

After 17...♙xf5 White plays 18.♙d5 ♖d8 19.♙f6+ and wins, while after 17...bxc3 he would continue 18.♙d1! cxb2+ 19.♖b1, e.g. 19...♙xf5 20.♙xf5 ♙e5 21.♙xe5 dxe5 22.g6, winning, or 19...♙e8 20.♙f3 ♙d8 21.♙h3 ♙f8 22.♙xg7! ♖xg7 23.♖h6+ ♖h8 24.f6, and mate.

#### 18.♖f3 e5 19.g6! bxc3

After 19...exd4 20.♖xf4 bxc3 White has the beautiful win 21.♖h6! gxf6 22.gx7++ ♖h8 23.♙g8+, while 19...hxg6 is met by 20.♖xf4!, as in the game, e.g. 20...exf4 21.♙xg6 ♙d8 22.♙xg7+ ♖f8 23.♙d5 ♙d4 24.♙d1 ♖e8 25.♙b6.



### 20.♖xf4!

Very nice! The weakness of g7 will be Black's undoing.

#### 20...♙h8

21...exf4 is met by 21.gxf7+ ♙xf7 22.♙xg7+ ♖h8 23.♙xf7+ ♖e8 24.f6 ♖a5 25.♙xe7+ ♖d8 26.♙g1, and it's curtains! And after 20...♙f6 White wins with 21.♖h6!

#### 21.gxf7! ♙f6

Or 21...exf4 22.♙xg7 mate; or 21...exd4 22.f6! ♙xf6 23.♖xf6; or 21...♙xf7 22.♙x7 ♙f6 23.♙d5!, with winning play, e.g. 23...exf4 24.♙xf6 cxb2+ 25.♙xb2 ♙b8 26.f6. Variations by the proud white player.

#### 22.♙xg7! ♙xg7

Or 22...♙e6 23.♙xe6 exf4 24.♙xf6 h6 25.♙d1, and it's over.

#### 23.f6 ♖d8

Or 23...exf4 24.fxg7 mate; or 23...♙xf7 24.fxg7+ ♖xg7 25.♙g1+ ♖f8 26.♖h6+ ♖e7 27.♙xf7 exd4 28.♙g7 ♖d8 29.♙d5.

#### 24.♙g1

Black resigned.

### SI 26.8

□ Gallo

■ Masetti

Correspondence game 1986

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♙f6 5.♙c3 ♙c6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙e3 ♙e7 8.♖e2 0-0 9.0-0-0 a6 10.♙b3 ♖c7 11.g4 ♙d7 12.♙hg1 ♙c5 13.g5

For the standard sacrifice 13.♙f5!?, see the game Ginsburg-Lanka.

#### 13...b5

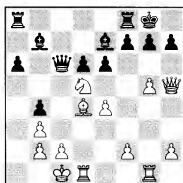
Black can also clear square c8 more quickly with 13...♙d7 14.♖h5 ♙f8.

#### 14.♙xc6 ♙xb3+ 15.♙xb3 ♖xc6 16.♖h5 b4 17.♙d4! ♙b7

After 17...bxc3? White has the deadly 18.♖h6! – the queen is invulnerable and 18...e5 is simply met by 19.♙xe5, Baljon-

Boersma, Groningen 1974. Better is 17...♙d7?! 18.♙g4 bxc3 19.♙h4 ♙xg5+ 20.♖xg5 cxb2+ 21.♙xb2 e5 22.♙g1 g6 23.♖h6 ♙f8, and Black stayed alive in Roth-Stanec, Austria 1994.

#### 18.♙d5!



18.♙d5 won't work in view of 18...bxc3 19.♙h4 cxb2+ 20.♙xb2 ♖xe4, and h7 is covered!

#### 18...exd5 19.♙d3

19.♖h6 is now refuted with 19...♖xc2+! 20.♖xc2 ♙f8+ 21.♖b1 gxf6 22.gxf6+ ♖f8.

#### 19...♙f8 20.c3 bxc3 21.bxc3

In Golubev-Shapiro, Odessa 1983, White played 21.♙h3; after 21...cxb2+ 22.♖xb2 ♖f8 (after 22...♖c2+?! 23.♖a3 ♖xe4? White now has 24.g6!, winning) 23.♙f3 ♖e8 24.♖xf7+ ♖d8 an unclear position arose.

21.♙f3?! cxb2+ 22.♖xb2 ♖c2+ 23.♖a3 ♙f8 24.♙h3 ♖xe4 25.g6 fxf6 26.♖xh7+ ♖d7 27.♙xg7 g5 28.♙xf8+ ♖xh7 29.♙xh7+ ♖xh8 is also unclear.

#### 21...dxe4 22.♙h3 ♖f8 23.g6 fxf6?

Now White wins by force. Correct is 23...h6! 24.♙xg7+ (or 24.gxf7 ♙f6 25.♙xf6 gxf6 26.♖xh6+ ♖e7) 24...♖e8 25.gxf7 ♖d7, and it is very unclear whether White has compensation for the piece he is down.

#### 24.♙xg6! hxg6 25.♙xg6

Black resigned. A rather curious end to a correspondence game!



SI 26.8

- Ginsburg
- Lanka

Cappelle la Grande 1997

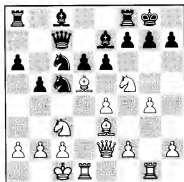
1.e4 c5 2.dxf3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.0xd4  
 5.0e3 d6 6.0c4 e6 7.0e3 0e7  
 8.0e2 a6 9.0-0-0 0c7 10.0b3 0-0  
 11.0h1 0d7 12.g4 0c5

A standard position in the Velimirovic Attack. Black will be bombarded with sacrifices!

13.0f5!? b5

Taking the knight is extremely risky: 13...exf5?! 14.gxf5, e.g. 14...0d7 15.0d5 0d8 16.0h5 0h8 17.0xg7! 0xg7 18.f6+, and White wins, S. Sokolov-K. Grigorian, Soviet Union 1978.

14.0d5!?



This bishop sacrifice is another standard turn in the Sozin.

14...0b7

Taking the bishop looks suspect and has hardly ever been played. After 14...exd5 15.0xd5 0b7 16.e5 0e6 17.0dx7+ (or 17.exd6 0d8 18.f4) 17...0xe7 18.0xd6, followed by 19.f4, White will at any rate have compensation for the sacrificed piece.

15.g5 0f8

Black still cannot really take the f5 knight: 15...exf5?! 16.g6!, e.g. 16...hxg6 17.0xg6

0e5 18.0xg7+! 0xg7 19.0g1+ 0g6 20.exf5, and White had a winning attack, A.Sokolov-Salov, Nikolaev 1983.

16.0h5

The alternative is 16.0g3, after which the main line, according to the books, is 16...0f8 17.0h5 (17...0h6!?) 17...g6 18.0h6+ 0h8 19.0h4 b4 20.0h3 bxc3 21.0g4 f5 22.0f6 h6 23.0hx6+, with perpetual check, Rogers-Lanka, Linz 1997.

16...0e5

16...b4 may be followed by 17.0xe6! 0xe6 (17...fxe6 fails to 18.g6! h6 19.0hx6!) 18.0d5.

17.f4 0g6 18.0g3! b4

After 18...exd5 White plays 19.0h3 0f8 20.0d4, as in the game, e.g. 20...0c6 21.0xg7!, and now 21...0xg7 fails to 22.0h6+ 0h8 23.0xf7 0g6 24.0g8+ 0xg8 25.0f7+, while 21...0d8 is met by 22.0h6, and wins.

19.0h3 0f8

After 19...h6 20.gxh6 gxh6 21.0hx6 0f6 22.0d4 0d8 23.0g1 0xd4 24.e5! Black is also finished, while running away with 19...0f8 won't help either: 20.0hx7 0e8 21.0xe5 dxc5 22.0xe6.

20.0d4! exd5

Or 20...bxc3 21.0h6! 0b3+ (21...gxh6 22.0hx6 mate) 22.0b1 0f6 23.0xf6, and Black is mated anyway.

21.0xg7!



21...0d8

Or 21...bxc3 22.0h6+ 0xg7 23.0xf7+, and mate.

22.0d4 f6 23.gxf6 0g6 24.f7+!

Black resigned in view of 24...0xf7 25.0hx7+ 0e8 26.0xg6+ 0d7 27.0h7+.

SI 26.8

- Hoffer
- Johnson

Correspondence game 1989

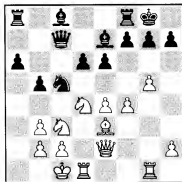
1.e4 c5 2.f3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.0xd4  
 5.0c3 d6 6.0c4 e6 7.0e3 0e7  
 8.0e2 a6 9.0-0-0 0c7 10.0b3 0-0  
 11.0hg1 b5 12.g4 0a5 13.g5 0xb3+  
 14.axb3 0d7 15.f4

Another idea is 15.0g3, to start an attack with 0h5 and 0g3-h3.

15...0c5

After 15...b4 White also continues 16.0f5!?. After 16...exf5?! 17.0d5 0d8 18.exf5 he has compensation for the sacrificed piece, e.g.

18...0e8 19.0d4 0f8 20.0h5, with a strong attack, Wolff-I.Sokolov, Junior world championship, Baguio 1987.



16.0f5!? 0xb3+?!

Black should have thought better of this intermediate move. Stronger is 16...exf5?! 17.0d5 0b7 (17...0d8? won't work in view of

18.0xc5 dxc5 19.0f6+) 18.0f6+ 0h8! (after 18...gxh6? 19.gxf6+ 0h8 20.0d4 Black might as well resign) 19.0xc5 dxc5 20.0h5, and now not 20...gxh6 21.gxf6 0xf6 22.0h6 0e7 23.e5, as indicated by White, but 20...h6!, and it is doubtful whether White has anything decisive. After 21.e5 0b6 22.0g3 0b8 White can force perpetual check with 23.0h3 and 24.0hx6+, but is there more in it for him?

17.0b1!

Weak is 17.exb3? exf5, and now White cannot play 0d5.

17...exf5 18.0d5 0b7 19.e5! dxe5

Other moves are no better: 19...0c5 20.exd6 0xd6 21.0f6+ gxh6 22.gxf6+ 0h8 23.0g7, followed by 24.0h5, and mate, or 19...0e6 20.0f6+ 0h8 21.0h5 gxh6 22.gxf6 0xf6 23.0h6 0xe5 24.fxe5 25.exf6 0f7 26.0g7 0xg7 27.fxg7+ 0xg7 28.0hx6, and White is winning. It's all very complicated, but it seems to work.

20.0f6+! gxh6

After 20...0xf6 21.gxf6 g6 White wins with 22.0h5, while 20...0h8 is met by 21.0h5 h6 22.fxe5, with the threat of 23.g6!, against which 22...0c5 won't help either: 23.g6 0xe3 24.gxf7-- and in view of mate on d8 Black cannot take on f7, so White just plays 25.0g6.

21.gxf6+ 0h8 22.fxe7 0xe7

Or 22...0e8 23.0d4!

23.0g2 f6 24.0xa8 0b7 25.0d7!

An important point. Now the job is definitely finished.

25...0xa8 26.0xe7 0e4 27.fxe5 fxe5 28.0xe8

Black resigned.

SI 26.8

- Pereira, Alvaro
- Varabiescu

Correspondence game 1981

1.e4 c5 2.f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.0xd4  
 5.0e3 d6 6.0e3 c6 7.0c4 0e7

8. ♖e2 0-0 9.0-0-0 a6 10. ♖b3 ♖c7  
11. g4 ♘d7 12. g5 ♘c5 13. ♗hg1 b5  
14. ♗h5 g6 15. ♗h6 ♗e8 16. ♗g3 ♖f8  
17. ♗h4 b4

17...♗e7?! is also possible, when Black meets 18. ♗h3 with 18...h5.

#### 18. ♖xc6!

Less accurate is 18. ♗h3?; after 18...h5 19. gxh6 e.p. bxc3 20. ♖xc6 ♖xb3+ 21. axb3 Black has 21...e5!, which refutes everything.

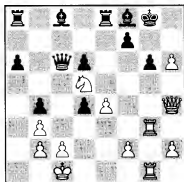
#### 18...♖xb3+ 19. axb3 ♖xc6

19...bxc3? is met by 20. ♖d4 e5 (20...♖xc6 21. ♖xh7+, and mate follows!) 21. ♖b4, and now 21...exd4 doesn't work in view of 22. ♖d5.

#### 20. ♖d4 h5

White was threatening 21. ♖xh7+, and mate, while 20...e5 would have run into 21. ♖d5, of course.

#### 21. gxh6 e.p. e5 22. ♖d5 exd4 23. ♖dg1



#### 23...♗a7?

This loses. Also bad is 23...♗c6? 24. ♗xg6+ fxg6 25. ♗xg6+ ♖h7 26. ♗g5, and mate, or 23...♗b5? 24. ♗g5! (but not 24. ♗xg6+? fxg6 25. ♗xg6+ ♖h7 26. ♗g5 ♖f1+), e.g. 24...♖e2 25. ♖f6+ ♖h8 26. ♖xe8, or 24...♗e5 25. ♗xe5 dxe5 26. h7+ ♖h8 27. ♖f6+ ♖g7 28. ♖x17. But 23...d3!, as indicated by Mikhail Golubev in his book *The Sicilian Sozin*, saves Black. White is forced to go for perpetual check with 24. ♗xg6+ fxg6 25. ♗xg6+ ♖h7

26. ♗g7+ ♖xg7 27. hxg7+ ♖xg7 28. ♗g5+ 24. ♖f6+ ♖h8 25. ♗xg6! fxg6 26. ♗xg6 ♗e6 27. ♗g5 ♗e7 28. h7

And not 28. ♗g7? ♖xe4!

After the text Black resigned.

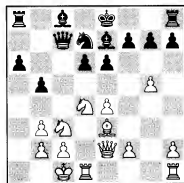
#### SI 26.9

□ Nunn

■ Estremera

León 1997

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4  
♖f6 5. ♖c3 ♖c6 6. ♖c4 e6 7. ♗b3 a6  
8. ♖e2 ♖c7 9.0-0-0 ♗e7 10. ♗b3 ♖c8  
11. g4 b5 12. g5 ♖xb3+ 13. axb3 ♖d7



#### 14. h4

An important alternative is 14. ♖f5!?. After 14...exf5 15. ♖d5 ♖d8 16. exf5 Black should not play 16...0-0?, as in the game Velimirovic-Sofrevski, Yugoslav championship 1965: 17. f6 gx f6 18. ♖d4! ♖e5 19. gx f6 ♖xf6 20. ♗hg1+ ♖g7 21. ♗xe5! dxe5 22. ♖xe5 f6 23. ♖e7+ ♖f7 24. ♖h5+, and Black resigned, but 16...♖b7!, e.g. 17. f6 gx f6 18. ♗he1 ♖xd5 19. ♗xd5 ♖g8, with a highly unclear position.

#### 14...b4

14...0-0?! is met strongly by 15. g6!, e.g. 15...hxg6 16. h5, or 15...♖c5 16. gxh7+ ♖h8

17. ♗hg1. But 14...♖c5 and 14...♖b7 are playable options – I will have to refer you to the books.

#### 15. ♖a4 ♖c5 16. h5 ♖d7

After 16...♖b7?! White plays 17. g6!, but 16...♖xe4?! is a possibility, e.g. 17. g6 ♖f6 18. gx f7+ ♖xf7, with unclear play, Emms-Hennigan, Dundee 1993.

#### 17. ♖b1

Now 17. g6 was a possibility again; it is followed by 17...♖xb3+! 18. ♖xb3 ♖xa4 19. h6!?! fxg6 20. hxg7 ♗g8, with complicated play.

#### 17...♖xa4

An alternative is 17...♖xa4. After 18. bxa4 Black can choose between 18...g6!?, a suggestion from Kasparov and Nikitin, and just 18...♖xa4, when White can try 19. g6!?, again.

#### 18. bxa4 ♖c8

After 18...♖xa4 White is confronted with another choice: 19. g6!?! or 19. f4!?! – it's all very difficult!

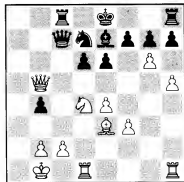
#### 19. f3

Again: 19. g6!?! or 19. f4!?! was worth considering.

#### 19...♖xa4 20. ♖xa6 ♖c5 21. ♖b5+ ♖d7

After 21...♖d7 simply 22. b3 yields White a good position.

#### 22. g6!



The thematic move; but it won't yield more than a draw. Other continuations are probably no better: 22. ♗h2 0-0 23. g6 ♖c5 24. h6 fxg6

25. ♗x7 ♗f7 26. ♗d1 ♗xg7, Wedberg-Van der Wiel, Haninge 1989, or 22. ♗d2 0-0 23. g6 ♖c5 24. h6 fxg6 25. hxg7 ♗f7, Onischuk-Van der Wiel, Wijk aan Zee 1996, with reasonable play for Black in both cases.

#### 22...e5

Less good is 22...fxg6?! 23. ♗h2! e5 24. ♖c6 ♖c5 25. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 26. hxg6 ♖f6 27. ♗xh7, with advantage for White, Hector-Rytschagov, Göteborg 1997. If 22...♖f6, then 23. ♖a4 is a good reply.

#### 23. gx f7+ ♖xf7 24. ♖d5+ ♖e8 25. ♖e6

White has to abandon c2, and now Black has perpetual check.

#### 25...♖xc2+ 26. ♖a1 ♖a4+ 27. ♖b1 ♖xc2+ 28. ♖a1 ♖a4+ 29. ♖b1

Draw.

#### SI 26.11

□ Fischer

■ Dely

Skopje 1967

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4  
♖f6 5. ♖c3 ♖c6 6. ♖c4 e6 7. ♗b3 a6 8. f4  
♖a5

A good alternative is 8...♗e7; after 9. ♖e3 0-0 10. ♖f3 the position from Polgar-Ivanov and Ehlvest-Mednis, SI 26.12, has arisen.

#### 9.0-0 ♖xd4?!

After 9...d5 Fischer would have played 10. ♖xc6 bxc6 11. f5, when he observes that 11...♗c5+ 12. ♗h1 0-0 would have yielded Black a defensible position. Instead of 10. ♖xc6, White can also play 10. ♗a4!?, a suggestion from Golubev.

#### 10. ♖xd4 d5

The queen swap with 10...♖c5 is obvious enough, but then 11. ♖xc5 dxc5 12. a4! is very good for White, positionally speaking.

#### 11. ♖e3! ♖xe4

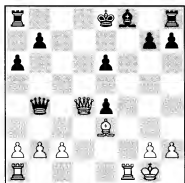
Or 11...dxe4 12. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 (12...♗e7 13. ♖d6+) 13. ♗a4+! 11...♖g4 is not satisfac-

tory either, as this is met by 12.♖h1! ♖xc3 13.♖xc3 dxe4 14.♖xe4 ♖e7 15.♖ae1, with good play for White; 15...0-0 is strongly met by 16.f5.

**12.♖xe4 dxe4 13.f5! ♖b4?**

After 13...exf5, 14.g4! would have been very unpleasant, but now the game is forced to a finish.

**14.fxe6 ♖xe6 15.♖xe6 fxe6**



**16.♖xf8+! ♖xf8 17.♖a4+!**

Black resigned in view of 17...b5 18.♖xc4 ♖d8 19.♖c6+ ♖d7 20.♖d1 ♖e7 21.♖b6.

SI 26.12

□ Baljon

■ Jhunjhuwala

Teesside 1974

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.e3 c3 d6 6.♖c4 e6 7.♖b3 ♖e7 8.♖e3 a6 9.♖e2 ♗xd4**

This exchange is not bad, but it is not without risk either.

**10.♗xd4 b5 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.g4 ♖c7?!**

This is a rather pointless move, after which the white attack quickly gains in strength. Better is 12...♖b7 13.a3 ♖c7 14.g5 ♗d7 15.♖hg1 ♗c5 16.♖a2 ♖ad8 17.♖h5 ♖xe4 18.g6, Judit Polgar-Dominguez, Novi Sad

Olympiad 1990, and now Black should simply have played 18...fxg6!. After 19.♖xe6+ ♖h8 20.♖xg6 ♖f6! Things are by no means clear, 12...b4?! 13.♗a4 ♖b7 is also good, as it forces White to play 14.f3, after which chances are roughly equal.

**13.g5 ♗d7 14.♖h5 ♗c5 15.♖hg1 ♗xb3+**

Black is probably lost in all lines. The game Bordonada-Haruyama, Penang 1974, for example, saw: 15...♖b7 16.♖g4 ♖f8 17.♖h4 ♖xe4 18.♖xe4! ♗xb3+ 19.axb3 b4 20.♖xg7! bxc3 21.♖xc3 ♖c5 22.♖f4 f6 23.♖g1 ♖f8 24.♖xh7, and Black resigned.

**16.axb3 b4**

In a recent game, 16...g6 turned out to be no better: 17.♖h6 f6 18.gxf6 ♖xf6 19.♖xf6 ♖xf6 20.e5! dxe5 21.e4 ♖f8 22.♖xg6+ hxg6 23.♖g1 ♖g7 24.♖xg6 ♖f7 25.♗f6+, and Black resigned, Todorovic-Jakab, Budapest 2001.

**17.♖f6! bxc3**

17...♖d8 prevents the now decisive move, but then White plays 18.♖g3 bxc3 19.♖h3 ♖f8 (or 19...h6 20.♖xh6! gxh6 21.♖xh6 ♖xf6 22.gxf6, with inevitable mate) 20.♖xg7+! ♖e8 (20...♖xg7 is mate in two) 21.♖f3, e.g. 21...cxb2+ 22.♖b1 ♖b7 23.♖xf7+ ♖d7 24.♖fd3, and Black has enormous problems.



**18.♖h6!**

An aesthetic first move! Mate is inevitable. Black resigned.

SI 26.12

□ Bangiev

■ Shakarov

Grozny 1974

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.e3 c3 d6 6.♖c4 e6 7.♖e3 ♖e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♖b3 a6 10.f4 ♗xd4 11.♗xd4 b5 12.e5!?**

This is the only way that offers White some prospect of making progress: 12.a3 ♖b7 favours Black, as witness, for instance, the fourth match game Fischer-Spassky, Reykjavik 1972.

**12...dxe5 13.fxe5 ♗d7 14.♗e4 ♖b7 15.♗d6 ♖xd6 16.exd6 ♖g5 17.♖f7 ♖ac8**

The move 17...e5?! opens the diagonal of the white b3 bishop. In the game Bangiev-Shmirin, Volgograd 1973, there followed 18.♖c3 e4! (and this move also opens the diagonal of the other bishop – which is more than the black position can bear) 19.♖f1! ♖g6 20.♖e1 ♖ae8 21.♖c3 ♗e5 22.d7! ♗xd7 23.♖g3 e3 24.♖xf7!, and Black resigned. But a good move is 17...a5, which has featured in quite a few games.

**18.♖e2**

18.♖f1!? or 18.a4!? is also possible, according to Bangiev.

**18...♗c5**

An idea from Golubev is 18...♗d5!? – now Black is no longer bothered by the weakness of the e6 square.

**19.♖d1**

After 19.b4 Black plays 19...♖g3 (but 19...♖xb4? is not good in view of 20.♖xc5 ♖xc5 21.♖xe6); after 20.♖xc5 ♖xc5 21.♖xe6 he has 21...♖xd6. Instead of the text, 19.♖af1!? is also possible, according to Golubev.

**19...♖fd8 20.h4!? ♖g6!**

After 20...♖xb4? White plays 21.♖xf7! ♖xf7 22.♖xc5, and wins: 22...♖e4 (or 22...♗d5 23.♖xd5!, or 22...♗c4 23.♖b6 ♖d7 24.♖d4) 23.♖f2+ ♖g8 (23...♖g6 24.♖g3+ ♖f7 25.♖e1) 24.♖e1. Thus Bangiev. Note

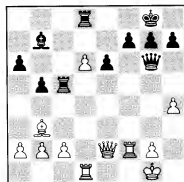
that with the rook on d1, 20...♖g3? is not good: 21.♖xc5 ♖xc5 22.♖xe6.

**21.♖xc5**

21.d7 yields nothing: 21...♗d7 22.♖df1 ♖f8 23.h5 ♖e4 24.♖d2 ♖g4 25.♖xg7 ♖xg7 26.♖xd7 ♗d5 27.♖xd5 ♖ed8 28.♖a7 ♖xd5, with equal play.

21.h5 is met by 21...♖g5 or 21...♖e4.

**21...♖xc5**



**22.♖df1**

22.♖e3 ♖f5 23.♖b6 ♖d7 is good for Black, Bangiev.

**22...♖f5 23.h5 ♖xf2 24.♖xf2 ♖xh5**

**25.♖a7 ♖xg2**

Black forces a draw. He could also have tried 25...♖c6, but after 26.♖c7 ♖c5+ 27.♖d7 ♖xd6 28.♖xf7+ ♖h8 29.♖xe6 it's about equal.

**26.♖xg2 ♖g5+**

And a draw. Black has perpetual check.

SI 26.12

□ Ehlvest

■ Mednis

Las Vegas 1998

**1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.e3 d6 6.♖c4 e6 7.♖e3 ♖e7 8.♖b3 0-0 9.f4 a6 10.♖f3 ♗xd4**

For 10...♔d7, see the game Polgar-Ivanov.

### 11.♔xd4 b5 12.♔xf6

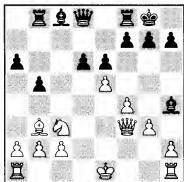
12.e5?! at once is less good: 12...dxc5, and now 13.♞xa8?! exd4 14.♔e4 ♞a5+ 15.♔d2 ♞c7 16.♞f3 ♔b7, with good play for the exchange. Also possible is 13.fxc5?! ♞xd4 14.exf6 ♔c5!, when 15.♞xa8? won't work in view of 15...♞f2+ 16.♔d1 ♔e3, so that White has to play 13.♔xe5, with a good position for Black after 13...♔a7.

### 12...♔xf6! 13.e5

Will he win a piece now?

### 13...♔h4+ 14.g3 ♔b8

The answer is no!



### 15.0-0-0

The 12th match game Short-Kasparov, London 1993, saw 15.gxh4 ♔b7 16.♔e4 dxc5 17.♔g1 g6 18.♔d1 ♔xe4 19.♞xc4 ♞xh4+, and Black's many pawns provided sufficient compensation for the bishop.

### 15...♔b7

15...♔e7 is also possible; after 16.exd6 ♔xd6 17.♔e4 ♔b7 Black is not bad.

### 16.♔e4 ♔xe4 17.♞xe4 d5 18.♞f3

18.♞d3 had been played before. In Morozevich-Mitenkov, Moscow 1991, Black was worse after 18...♔e7 19.h4 ♞a5 (after 19...a5 an important point of 18.♞d3 is revealed: 20.c3 b4 21.♔c2 g6 22.h5 bxc3 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.♔h6!, and wins) 20.f5 b4 21.♞f3 ♔h8 22.f6 gxh6 23.exf6 ♔d6 24.g4 ♔g8?! 25.g5

♞c5 26.♔hg1 ♔c7 27.♔g2. But 24...♞b5! is an improvement: 25.g5 a5, and now, for instance, 26.g6 fxg6 27.f7 ♔g7 28.♔hf1 ♔c5 29.♔d1 ♔b7, and Black seems able to hold. 18...♔e7 19.f5 a5 20.c3 a4 21.♔c2 b4! 22.f6

Black's reaction forces White to save himself with perpetual check, as 22.♔xa4? bxc3 cannot be good.

### 22...gxh6 23.♔xh7+!

23.exf6? ♔xf6 24.♞h5 ♔g5+ 25.♔b1 f5 or 23.♞h5? f5 24.g4 ♔g5+ 25.♔b1 bxc3 are both insufficient, so White forces a draw.

### 23...♔xh7 24.♞h5+ ♔g7 25.♞g4

Draw.

### SI 26.12

□ Polgar, Judit

■ Ivanov, Igor

New York 1989

1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4  
♔f6 5.♔c3 ♔c6 6.♔c4 e6 7.♔b3 ♔e7  
8.♔e3 0-0 9.f4 a6 10.♞f3 ♔d7

Other moves here are 10...♞c7, 10...♔a5 and 10...♔xd4 11.♔xd4 b5; for the latter option, see the previous game Ehlvest-Mednis.

### 11.0-0-0 ♔c8!? 12.f5!?

This reveals an important point of 10...♔d7 and 11...♔c8. 12.g4 has been recommended as an improvement, but the question remains whether White will have sufficient compensation for the exchange after the continuation 12...♔xd4 13.♔xd4 e5 14.fxe5 ♔xg4 15.♞g2 dxe5 16.♔xe5 ♔xd1 17.♔xd1 ♞e8 18.♔d5 ♔c6. Another possibility is 12.♔xc6 ♔xc6, and only now 13.f5.

### 12...♔xd4 13.♔xd4 e5 14.♔e3 ♔xc3!

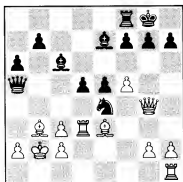
A thematic sacrifice in the Sicilian. Less strong is 14...b5 15.g4 b4 16.♔d5 ♔xd5 17.♔xd5 ♞c7 18.♔d2 ♔c6 19.g5 ♔d5 20.exd5, with unclear play.

### 15.bxc3 ♔c6 16.♔b2

After 16.♔d5 ♔xd5 17.exd5 ♞a5 18.♔b2

♔c8 Black also has very good prospects.

### 16...♔xe4 17.♞g4 d5 18.♔d3 ♞a5



The outcome of the exchange sacrifice is clear: Black is holding all the trumps. He is already threatening 19...♔xc3 20.♔xc3 ♔a3+.

### 19.♔h6 ♔f6 20.♔g3

A desperate move, probably played in the knowledge that other moves wouldn't help either. After, for example, 20.♔f3 Black plays 20...♔h8 or 20...d4!?

### 20...♔xg3 21.♔xg7 ♔xg7 22.f6 ♔h5

### 23.♔f1 ♔xf6

White resigned.

### SI 26.12

□ Troinov

■ Popov

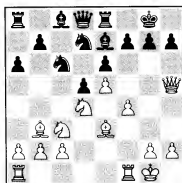
Chellabinsk 1962

1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4  
♔f6 5.♔c3 ♔c6 6.♔c4 e6 7.0-0 ♔e7  
8.♔e3 0-0 9.♔b3 a6 10.f4 d5!?

This move gives White too many chances on the kingside. But after 10...♔a5, 11.♞f3 ♞c7 12.g4 offers White good prospects. 10...♔xd4 11.♔xd4 b5 is probably Black's best continuation. This is how things went in Fischer-Spassky, second match game Reykjavik 1972, as well as in Short-Kasparov, 14th match game, London 1993.

### 11.e5 ♔d7 12.♞h5 ♔e8?

Intending to parry the threat ♔f1-f3-h3 with ♔f8. But White has a magnificent combination to exploit the weakening of square f7. Better is 12...g6 13.♞h6 ♔e8, followed by 14...♔f8.



### 13.♔xd5! exd5 14.♞xf7+!

The amazing point of the first sacrifice. White has calculated the rest down to a T.

### 14...♞xf7

14...♔h8 won't help in view of 15.♔c6.

### 15.♔xd5+ ♔g6

Or 15...♔f8 16.♔e6+ ♔f7 17.♔xd8+.

### 16.f5+ ♔h5 17.♔f3+ ♔h4 18.g3+ ♔h3

### 19.♔g2+ ♔g4 20.♔f4+

Black resigned; after 20...♔h5 21.♔f3+ ♔h6 22.♔h4 he is mated.

### SI 26.13

□ Padevsky

■ Botvinnik

Moscow 1956

1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 ♔c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4  
♔f6 5.♔c3 d6 6.♔c4 e6 7.0-0 ♔e7  
8.♔e3 0-0 9.♔b3 ♔a5 10.f4 b6

10...a6 is more common, but there is nothing wrong with the text.

### 11.♞f3?!

This move is too slow. Better is 11.e5!?, e.g. 11...dxe5 12.fxe5 ♔e8, and now 13.♞f3,

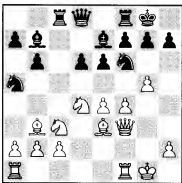
13. ♖g4 or 13. ♗h5, with chances for both sides. I refer the reader to the theory books.

**11... ♖b7 12.g4**

12.f5 e5 13. ♔d2 is met by 13... ♔xb3 14.axb3 d5!, with good counterplay for Black.

**12... ♗c8 13.g5**

After 13... ♔d2 Black has the strong pseudo-sacrifice 13... ♔xe4! 14. ♔xe4 d5.



**13... ♗xc3!**

Extremely strong! Black shatters White's pawn structure and captures pawn e4. He gets magnificent compensation for the exchange. This book contains several games with this theme. Another example is Polgar-Ivanov, SI 26.12. **14.bxc3**

After 14.gxf6 ♗xc3 15.fxe7 (or 15. ♗xe3 ♖xf6) 15... ♗xf3 16.exd8 ♗xf1+ White remains a pawn down.

**14... ♔xe4 15. ♖g4 ♗c8! 16. ♗f3**

16.f5 is met by 16... e5! 17. ♔f3 ♔xb3 18.axb3 ♗xc3 19. ♗d1 d5 and ... ♗c5. Thus Botvinnik.

**16... ♔xb3 17.axb3 f5 18. ♗h4**

Or 18.gxf6 e.p. ♗xf6! 19.f5 exf5 20. ♔xf5 ♖f8, with magnificent play for Black, e.g. 21. ♔h6+ ♔xh6 22. ♗xc8 ♗g6+ 23. ♔f1 ♔xc8 24. ♗xa7 ♗g4 25. ♗f7 ♖h3+ 26. ♖e1 ♗e6, Botvinnik.

**18... e5 19. ♗h3 h6 20. ♗h5 ♗xc3**

**21. ♗d1 exd4 22. ♖d2**

Or 22.gxh6 dxe3 23.hxg7 ♗xg7+, or else 22. ♖xd4 ♗xc2 23.gxh6 ♔f6. White is lost in all variations.

**22... ♗c6 23.gxh6 ♔g5! 24. ♗g3 ♗h1+**  
**25. ♖f2 ♔e4+**

White resigned.

SI 26.14

□ Luckans

■ Lanka

Riga 1993

**1.e4 c5 2. ♔f3 ♔c6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♔xd4 ♔f6 5. ♔c3 d6 6. ♖c4 e6 7.0-0 ♖e7 8. ♔h1 0-0 9.f4 d5!**

After the pseudo-sacrifice 9... ♔xe4 10. ♔xe4 d5 White is left with a slightly better position after 11. ♔xc6 bxc6 12. ♖d3 dxe4 13. ♖xe4, which is why the text is more accurate.

**10. ♔xc6 bxc6 11. ♖d3 c5**

Alternatives are 11... ♗c7!? and 11... ♖b7?!, according to the black player.

**12.e5 ♔d7 13. ♖xh7+!?**

This book contains several examples with this bishop sacrifice, invariably resulting in a winning attack for White. Here, however, the move yields no more than a draw, because White is quite low on attacking potential.

**13... ♖xh7 14. ♗h5+ ♖g8 15. ♗f3 f5 16. ♗h3 ♔f6!?**

After 16... ♗e8 White has perpetual check with 17. ♗h7+ ♖f7 18. ♗h5+ ♖g8 19. ♗h7+, The text is an attempt to keep the fight going.

**17.exf6 ♖xf6 18. ♖d2**

After 18. ♗h7+?! Black could safely have played 18... ♖f7 19. ♗h5+ g6.

**18... d4 19. ♖e2 ♖e8**

After 19... ♖b7 White can regroup with 20. ♖g1, followed by ♔f3.

**20. ♗h7+ ♖f7 21. ♗h5+ ♖g8**

Black resigns himself to the draw. According to Lanka, White would have been slightly better after 21... ♖e7?! 22. ♗f3, while after 21... g6?! White would also have played 22. ♗f3.

**22. ♗h7+ ♖f7**

Draw.

## Rauzer Variation

Black plays 2... ♔c6 and 5... d6, White plays 6. ♖g5

SI 27.4

□ Zarnicki

■ Roman

Buenos Aires 1994

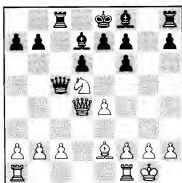
**1.e4 c5 2. ♔f3 ♔c6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♔xd4 ♔f6 5. ♔c3 d6 6. ♖g5 ♖d7 7. ♖xf6**

Consistent, although White usually postpones taking on f6, since the drawback of ♖d7 is that after e7-e6, ♔c3-b5 tends to be a good move. 7. ♖d2 or 7. ♖e2 is more common.

**7... gxif6 8. ♖e2 ♖a5**

The alternatives are 8... ♖g8 and 8... ♗b6.

**9.0-0 ♔xd4 10. ♗xd4 ♗c8 11. ♔d5 ♗c5**



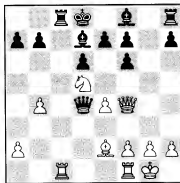
Black would like to swap queens, after which he no longer needs to fear a king attack. He then plays f6-f5 to swap his doubled pawns, and with two active bishops he has nothing to grumble about. Too enthusiastic is 11... ♗xc2

12.b4 ♖a3 13. ♖d1! ♗c8 14. ♖b3, after which the white attack gathers real strength.

**12. ♗d2 ♗xc2 13. ♗e3 ♗c5**

The big question is whether White is really better after the ugly 13... ♖h6 14. ♗xh6 ♗xe2 15. ♗g7 ♗f8 16. ♗ac1 ♗xc1 17. ♗xc1 ♖c6 18. ♔c7+ ♖d7 19. ♗xf8 ♗xe4, and the white knight is lost due to the threatened mate on g2.

**14. ♗f4 ♖d4 15. ♗ac1 ♖d8 16.b4!!**



Beautiful. It's hard to believe, but the hunt for the black queen has already started.

**16... ♖c6 17. ♗c4 ♖b2**

After 17... ♖e5 White plays 18. ♗c1, and the pin on the c-file is beginning to irritate.

**18. ♖g4 e6**

Certainly not 18... ♗xa2; after 19. ♗f5! White is already threatening mate.

**19. ♖c3!**

The net is being closed.

19...♙e7 20.♚b1 ♘c2 21.b5 ♙d7  
22.♙xc8+ ♘xc8 23.♙e3 f5 24.b6!

The point of the intermediate move 24.b6 is illustrated by the variation 24.♙d1 f4 25.♙d4 e5 26.♙c4 ♙c6, and now White has no check on e7.

24...a6 25.♙d1

Black resigns.

SI 27.9

□ Milov

■ Wells

Bad Wörishoten 1997

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 d6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♙b5 ♙b6

A typical Rauzer move. The main line after 7...♙d7 8.♙xc6 ♙xc6 9.♙f3 can lead to very sharp play.

8.♙xf6 gxf6 9.♙d5!?



This spectacular move may not be good, but it is the only way to refute 7...♙b6. After quieter moves Black has no problems.

9...exd5 10.exd5 a6 11.♙e2+

11.♙a4? loses after 11...♙a5+ 12.c3 ♙xd5 13.♙xc6 ♙e4+ (certainly not 13...♙xd1+?? 14.♙d1! ♙d7 15.♙e1+, and the black king has no escape square) 14.♙e2 ♙xc2+ 15.♙xe2 ♙d7, winning a piece.

11...♙d8 12.♙xc6+ ♙xc6 13.♙xc6 ♙a7

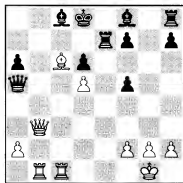
At first sight, White has a fine position: the black king is exposed, Black's pawn structure has collapsed and White already has two pawns for the piece. The reason that Black is very good here is that White has no real attack, which means that Black calmly develops and then launches an attack himself.

14.0-0

Snatching pawns with 14.♙e8+ ♙c7 15.♙xf7+ ♙b8 16.♙xf6 ♙b4+ 17.♙c3 ♙e7+ 18.♙f1 ♙xc3 19.♙xc3 ♙g7 20.♙b1+ ♙c7 21.♙b3 cannot be recommended, as the white queenside is no great shakes and Black is already getting pretty active.

14...♙e7 15.♙f3 f5! 16.♙e1 ♙g8!

Activating the rook. The greedy 16...♙xb2 is punished beautifully: 17.♙b1 ♙xc2 18.♙c1 ♙d2 19.♙b3 ♙a5



20.♙d7!! ♙xd7 21.♙c2! ♙c5 22.♙a4+ ♙d8 23.♙xc5 dxc5 24.d6, and White wins the attack.

17.h3 ♙b4 18.c3 ♙xb2!?

And again this move is not good! 18...♙h4! 19.♙c3 ♙h6 20.♙xe7 ♙xe7 is good: Black can always swap queens with ...♙c4, and he controls all open files.

19.♙d3 ♙h6 20.♙d4 ♙d2 21.♙b6+ ♙c7 22.h4?

Is unresponsible. After 22.♙e7! ♙xe7 23.♙xc7+ ♙f6 24.♙xd6+ ♙g7 25.♙e5+ f6

26.♙e7+ ♙h8 27.d6 ♙f8 28.♙d8 it is very doubtful whether Black has more than a draw.

22...♙xc3 23.♙e7 ♙xe7 24.♙xc7+ ♙f6 25.♙xd6+ ♙g7 26.♙c7 ♙f6 27.♙d1 ♙d8 28.d6 ♙f4

White resigns.

SI 27.9

□ Nilsson

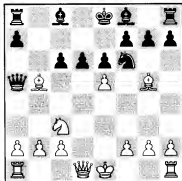
■ Geller

Stockholm 1954

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 d6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♙xc6 ♙xc6  
8.e5

A suggestion from the German master Kurt Richter. The idea is to take the initiative quickly after 8...♙xe5 9.♙f3.

8...♙a5! 9.♙b5



A beautiful interference. I can well imagine the excitement of the inventor of this move, as well as his grimly fanatical attempts to defend it. In these days of modern weaponry this move would certainly not find favour. White's last chance is 9.♙xf6 gxf6 10.exd6 ♙e5+ (I am afraid that after 10...♙b8 11.♙d4 ♙xb2 12.0-0-0 ♙b7 13.♙d3 White is skating on very thin ice) 11.♙e2 ♙xd6 12.0-0-0, which looks playable.

9...cxb5 10.exf6 b4 11.♙e4

A simultaneous game by Richter finished quickly after 11.♙f3 ♙xc3?? (11...♙e5+! puts a spanner in the works) 12.♙c6+ ♙d7 13.♙xa8+ ♙d8 14.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 15.fxg7+.

11...♙e5 12.f3 d5 13.♙d2 h6

Resisting the temptation: 13...♙xe4? 14.0-0-0 ♙d5 15.fxg7 ♙xg7 16.♙c3 ♙xb2+ 17.♙b1, and White is winning again.

14.♙h4 g5 15.♙g3 ♙xb2 16.♙d1 ♙a6 The outcome is clear: Black has an extra pawn, the centre and the more active pieces.

17.♙d6+ ♙xd6 18.♙xd6 ♙c8 19.♙c1 ♙c4 20.0-0 ♙d7 21.♙e7 ♙hc8 22.♙f2 ♙xc2! 23.♙xc2

After 23.♙xc2 the check 23...♙a1+ decides. 23...♙xc1+ White resigns.

SI 28.2

□ Oll

■ Temirbaev

Kulbyshev 1986

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 d6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♙d2 ♙e7  
8.0-0-0 0-0 9.♙b3 a5

Blacks immediately swings into action. By advancing the a-pawn he wants to create chaos in the white camp. On the downside, this kills the dynamism on the queenside, as the black pawns can now easily be blocked.

10.a4

A principled move. White blocks the a-pawn and takes firm control of square b5. Slightly more subtle is 10.a3 a4 11.♙d4, with roughly the same kind of position, only with the plus that the white a-pawn cannot become weak.

10...d5 11.♙b5 ♙b4

Black can take on e4 here, but after both 11...♙xe4 12.♙xe4 dxe4 13.♙xd8 ♙xd8 14.♙xd8 ♙xd8 15.♙c5 f5 16.♙d6 and 11...dxe4 12.♙xd8 ♙xd8 13.♙c1 ♙a7

14.♔c4 h6 15.♙xf6 gxf6 16.♙xc4 f5 17.♚d6, White has a firm grip on the initiative.

## 12.♞he1

The game can also be shepherded into a more positional direction: after 12.e5 ♚d7 13.♙xe7 ♞xe7 14.f4 White is slightly better.

## 12...h6

Black sheds a pawn to speed up his development.

## 13.♙xf6 ♙xf6 14.exd5 exd5 15.♙xd5 ♙g4 16.f3 ♙f5

An attempt to get into the game by switching moves fails miserably: 16...♙g5 17.♙e7+! ♙xe7 18.♞xd8 ♙axd8 19.♞xd8 ♙xd8 20.fxg4, and White is a healthy pawn up.

## 17.♙e3?

White is demanding too much from his position. After the simple 17.♚xb4 axb4 18.♞xd8 ♞fxd8 compensation for the pawn will be very hard to find.

## 17...♙g5 18.♚d4 ♙g6 19.g3 ♙xe3

Not bad either is 19...♞c7 20.f4 ♙f6, with dangerous attacking play. 21.f5 ♙h5 22.g4, for instance, fails to 22...♞f8.

## 20.♞xe3 ♞c8 21.♞d2 ♞d5 22.b3 ♞fd8 23.c3 ♞c5 24.♙c4 ♚d5 25.♙xd5 ♞xd5 26.♙b2?



Now White succumbs because his queen is dangerously overloaded. After 26.♙b5 ♞xd2 27.♞xd2 ♞f5 28.♙b2 ♞xf3 the outcome is

by no means clear.

## 26...♞e5! 27.♞f2 ♞xc3+ 28.♙a2 ♞d5 29.♞ed1 b5 30.♙xb5 ♙b1+

White resigns.

## SI 28.2

□ Tal

■ Mohrlok

Varna Olympiad 1962

## 1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 ♚c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♙f6 5.♙c3 d6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♞d2 ♙e7 8.0-0-0 0-0-9.♙b3

Preparing a dangerous attacking system. White is now threatening ♙xf6, and if Black parries the threat, White launches a king attack. Black has two options: either to try and effect d6-d5 in order to get play in the centre, or to launch his own king attack.

## 9...♞b6 10.f3 a6 11.g4 ♞d8

Now Black is ready to play d6-d5.

## 12.♙e3 ♞c7 13.g5 ♚d7 14.h4 b5 15.g6!



A well-known pawn sacrifice: White opens a few files, which his rooks will gratefully make use of.

## 15...fxg6

Five years earlier, Tal had beaten Koblenz in

improbably fine style after 15...hxg6 16.h5 gxf5 17.♞xh5 ♚f6 18.♞h1.

## 16.h5 gxf5 17.♞xh5 ♚f6 18.♞g5 ♙e5

Here Black can counter with 18...d5!?, but it is not clear who is better after 19.exd5 b4 20.♞g2 ♚e8 (20...bxc3? loses at once after 21.♞xg7+ ♙h8 22.♙h6) 21.dxc6 bxc3 22.♞xd8 (the exchange sacrifice after 22.♙d3!? is certainly worth considering) 22...♙xd8 23.♞c5.

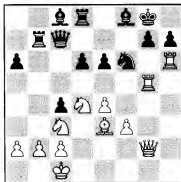
## 19.♞g2 ♙f8 20.♙e2 ♚c4 21.♙xc4 bxc4

After 21...♞xc4? 22.♙b6 ♞d7 23.♙a5 ♞b4 24.a3 Black loses his queen.

## 22.♙d4 ♞b8 23.♞h1 ♞b7?!

This seems rather timid. 23...e5 looks normal, but after 24.♙d2 (after 24.♙f5 the advance 24...d5 gains in strength) 24...d5 25.exd5 ♞b7 26.b3 cxb3 27.axb3 ♙xd5 28.♞h2 Black is suddenly in trouble again: 28...g6 is punished with 29.♞xg6+, while 28...♙f6 is met by 29.♙e4.

## 24.♞h6!



## 24...♙f7

It cannot have been easy to play against Tal. 24...g6, for example, looks like a good move, but White strikes beautifully: 25.♞xg6+ hxg6 26.♞xg6+ ♙f7 27.♞g5 ♙e8 28.♞xe6! ♙g7 (28...♙xe6 29.♙xe6 ♙xe6 30.♞f5+ ♙e7 31.♙d5 mate) 29.♙d5 ♞d7 30.g6, and

White wins because of the very unfortunate position of the black pieces. 31.♙e6 is the threat.

## 25.♞h4 ♞b6 26.♙d1 ♞c7 27.f4 h6 28.♞g6 ♞e8 29.f5 e5 30.♙c3! ♞d8 30...exd4 31.♞xf6+ gxf6 32.♙d5 won't save Black either.

## 31.♙c6

Black resigned.

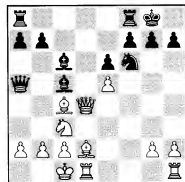
## SI 28.3

□ Baron Rodriguez

■ Meins

Groningen 1998

## 1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 ♚c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♙f6 5.♙c3 d6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♞d2 ♙e7 8.0-0-0 ♙xd4 9.♞xd4 0-0 10.f4 ♙a5 11.♙c4 ♚d7 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 ♙c6 14.♙d2 ♙c5!?



Played for the very first time in 1985, and Black's last chance to avoid the all too familiar main line after 14...♙d7 15.♙d5 ♞d8 16.♙e7+ ♞xe7. Here White exerts firm control over the board and can slowly set up an attack: queen on g4 and h2-h4-h5, in co-operation with the dark-squared bishop. Black has the better pawn structure, usually

puts the knight on g6 and can often make a positional exchange sacrifice. White's chances should certainly be preferred, but it is not a simple position. 14...♔c5 has not been played often yet, but Black certainly has more experience with it.

**15. ♖h4 d7 16. ♖he1 ♖c7 17. ♔d3 g6 18. ♔e4 ♔xe4**

This knight is too dangerous to be allowed to live.

**19. ♗xe4 ♖f8! 20. ♔c3 ♔f8 21. ♖f1**

The start of a bad plan. To my mind, White is already beginning to get worse, which is why he would be better off taking prophylactic measures such as 21. ♖b1.

**21... ♔c5 22. ♖f4 ♔xd3+ 23. cxd3 ♖xe5 24. ♗xf7**

White's best bet is the remarkable 24. ♖d2, with chances for both sides after 24... ♗xc3 25. bxc3 f5.

**24... ♗xc3+ 25. ♖d2 ♗xd3+ 26. ♔xd3 ♔g7 27. ♖b4**

Far better is 27. ♖e7 ♖d4+ 28. ♖e2 ♖xb2+ 29. ♖e3, and it will be far from simple to mate White.

**27... ♗d8+ 28. ♖c2 ♖e2+ 29. ♖b3 ♖xb2+**

White resigns.

SI 28.3

□ Matsuura

■ Tsuboi

Sao Paulo 1997

**1.e4 c5 2. ♔f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♔xd4 ♔f6 5. ♔c3 ♔c6 6. ♔g5 e6 7. ♖d2 ♔e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 ♔xd4 10. ♗xd4 ♖a5 11. ♔b5**

When you see this for the first time, you'll probably class it as a *Fingerfehler*. If that is really what it is, it could have happened to worse players, since both Kamsky and Ivanchuk have played this move against Kramnik.

Its aim is to keep the black bishop away from d7 for another while.

**11... ♖e7!**

Succumbs to the temptation. Better moves are 11...h6, 11...♗d8 and 11...c5.

**12.e5! dxe5 13.fxe5 ♔d5**

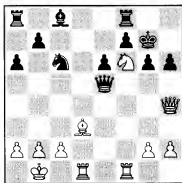
White wins material after 13...axb5 14. ♔xf6! b4 15. ♔xe7 bxc3 16. ♔xf8.

**14. ♔xe7 ♔xe7 15. ♔d3 ♔c6 16. ♖h4**

One way of getting an attack without losing a pawn is 16. ♖e4 g6 17. ♖he1.

**16...g6 17. ♔e4 ♖xe5 18. ♔f6+ ♔g7**

**19. ♗hf1 h6 20. ♖b1**



White has judged this well: at the cost of only one pawn he has mobilised all his pieces. The only defending black piece is the queen; Black's other pieces have not been developed yet.

**20... ♖g5 21. ♖f2 e5 22.h4 ♖f4 23. ♖e1 ♖b4 24. ♖g3 ♔e6 25.e3 ♖a5 26.h5 g5 27. ♔h7! ♔g8 28. ♔xg5**

White puts all his money on the h-pawn. An attractive option is 28. ♖f2, threatening mate, which means that 28...♗d8 is forced. After 29. ♔f6 ♗h8 White keeps attacking.

**28...hgx5 29. ♖xg5 ♖f8 30. ♖f6 ♔d4**

Black collapses. A better defence is 30...♗e8! 31.h6 e4 (vacates square e5 for the black queen) 32.h7 exd3, and after 33. ♗xd3 ♖e5 34. ♖h6+ ♖e7 35.hxg8 ♖xg8 the win is

certainly no sinecure, but 33. ♗d1! is a good attempt, e.g. 33...d2 34. ♖h6+ ♖e7 35. ♗xe6+ ♖xe6 36.hxg8 ♖xg8 37. ♖h7+ ♖d6 38. ♖xg8, and White wins. No good either is 33...♔e5 34.hxg8 ♖+ ♖xg8 35. ♖g5+! ♖f8 36. ♗h1, with a winning attack. The best defence is 33...dxc2+ 34. ♖c1 ♖d8! 35. ♗xe6 ♖d1+ 36. ♗xd1 ♗xe6 37.hxg8 ♖+ ♖xg8, and I leave it to you to find out whether this position is a fortress or not.

**31.h6 ♖d5 32.c4 ♖c5 33.h7 ♔xc4**

Black resigns.

SI 28.3

□ Shirov

■ Kramnik

Groningen 1993

**1.e4 c5 2. ♔f3 ♔c6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♔xd4 ♔f6 5. ♔c3 d6 6. ♔g5 e6 7. ♖d2 ♔e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 ♔xd4 10. ♗xd4 ♖a5 11. ♔c4 ♔d7 12. ♗d3**

In contrast to the main line, in which he aims for a small plus, White intentions here are very different: he switches his rook to the kingside, lending his attack extra power. The play becomes extremely concrete, meaning that any error will have gruesome consequences.

**12... ♗ad8 13. ♔g3 ♖h8**

Black can play 13...e5 alright, but he will be slightly worse after 14. ♗d3 ♔c6 15.f5 ♔xc4 16. ♖xc4 d5 17.exd5 ♔xd5 18. ♔xe7 ♔xe7 19.f6 ♔xd6 20.fxg7 ♖xg7.

**14. ♖f1**

Normal is 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 ♔c6 16. ♖e3 ♔g8, with a dynamic balance.

**14...h6 15.e5 dxe5 16.fxe5 ♖e8!**

Covering square f7. A possibility is 16...♔c6 17.exf6 ♗xd4 18.fxg7+ ♖g8 19. ♔xe7 (another try also leads to unclear play: 19.gxf8 ♖f7+ ♔xf8 20. ♔xh6+ ♖e8 21. ♔g8+ ♖d7 22. ♗xf7 ♖h5! 23. ♗h7) 19...♗fd8! (Black must pre-

vent a later ♗f8+) 20. ♔xe6 ♗d1+ 21. ♗xd1 ♗xd1+ 22. ♔xd1 ♖xe6, with a position that's hard to assess. Very bad is 16...hgx5? 17.exf6 ♔xf6 18. ♗xf6 ♔c6 19. ♗h3+ ♖g8 20. ♖g4 ♔xg2 21. ♗xf7 ♗xf7 22. ♖xg2.

**17. ♖f4**

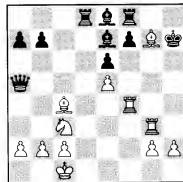
Taking on f6 is not so good now: 17.exf6 ♗xd4 18.fxg7+ ♖h7! (18...♖xg7? 19. ♔xe7+ ♖h7 20. ♔f6 ♖g8 21. ♔xd4) 19. ♗d3+ ♗d3 20. ♔xe7 ♗d8 21. ♗xd3 ♖xg7, and Black is clearly better.

A balanced position arises after 17. ♖e3 ♔g4 (17...♔d5? 18. ♔xd5 ♔g5 19. ♖xg5 ♖xg5 20. ♗h3+ ♖g8 21. ♔e7 mate) 18. ♗xg4 ♔xg5 19. ♗xg5 hxg5 20. ♖xg5 ♔c6.

**17... ♔h5 18. ♔xh6**

Better is 18. ♖h4 ♔xg3 (18...♔xg5+? 19. ♗xg5 hxg5 20. ♖xh5+ ♖g8 21. ♔e4) 19. ♔xe7 ♔xf1 20. ♔xd8 ♖xe5 21. ♔xf1 ♖e3+ 22. ♖b1 ♔c6, but Black is very active.

**18... ♔xf4 19. ♔xg7+ ♖h7 20. ♗xf4**



A nice concept, but it's pure bluff.

**20... ♔g8**

He misses it. After the beautiful 20... ♖xc3! 21. ♗xc3 ♔g5 22. ♗h3+ ♖xg7 23. ♗g3 ♖h6 24. ♗h3+ ♖g6 25. ♗g3 ♗h8 26. ♗d3+ ♗d3 27.exd3 ♔h8 Black wins.

**21. ♖f4 ♔xg7 22. ♔xg7+ ♖h6 23. ♗g8 ♖h7 24. ♔Bg7+**

Draw.



SI 18.4

- Dvořák
- Feher

Budapest 1991

1.e4 c5 2.f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
 4.f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♖g5 e6 7.♗d2 ♖e7  
 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.f4 h6 10.h4

A frequent theme: White sacrifices his bishop on g5 in order to create dangerous chances along the h-file.

10...♗xd4 11.♗xd4 hxg5

Black doesn't have to accept the sacrifice. 11...♗a5 leads to a position in which it will usually take a few moves before either player decides on what to do about the area of tension: pawn h6 and the bishop on g5.

12.hxg5 e5 13.♖g1

Because of Black's inaccurate 12th move – better is 12...♗g4 – White is now offered an alternative route to the h-file. 13.♖f2 ♗g4 14.♖h4 ♗h6 15.♗d5 looks attractive at first sight.

13...♗g4 14.♖e2 exf4 15.♖xg4 ♖xg5

To timid. There is no reason not to keep the piece: 15...♖xg4 16.♖h2 f5 (the only move to parry the mating threat) 17.♖h7+ (after 17.g6 Black returns a piece with 17...♖h4, when he is no worse in the endgame) 17...♗f7, and now it's true that White has a draw with 18.exf5 ♖xg5 19.♖g6+ ♗g8 20.♖h7+, but after other attempts Black can defend.

16.♖xc8 ♖xc8 17.♗d3 ♖e8

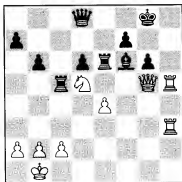
This does not look good. 17...f3+ 18.♖b1 fxg2 19.♖xg2 only helps White.

17...♖h6!?, on the other hand, to pre-emptively block the h-file and mobilise the queen with g5, might well be an improvement.

18.♖b1 ♖c5 19.g3!

Well played. White increases the pressure by opening the g-file as well.

19...fxg3 20.♖xg3 ♖e6 21.♗h5 ♖f6  
 22.♗d5 b6 23.♖gh3 g6 24.♖g5!



After this beautiful move there is no escape: Black no longer has a decent defence against ♖h8. Black resigns.

SI 28.5

- Pahlen
- Entferdt

Correspondence game 1992

1.e4 c5 2.f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗e4  
 4.f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♖g5 e6 7.♗d2 ♖e7  
 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.f4 h6 10.♖h4 e5 11.♗f5  
 ♗xf5 12.exf5 exf4

An old line of the Rauzer. Black is almost equal, but he still has a few minor problems: White has the bishop pair, more space and more attacking options.

13.♖b1 d5

Black tries to get active by sacrificing the backward d-pawn.

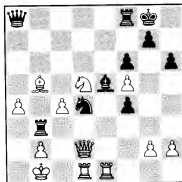
14.♖xf6 ♗xf6 15.♗d5 ♖e5 16.♖c4 b5  
 17.♖xb5

White is by no means forced to accept the pawn. In my only encounter with this position I played 17.♖b3, and after 17...a5 18.a3 a4 19.♖a2 b4 20.♗xb4 ♖f6 21.♗d5 ♖xf5 22.♖d3! I was better.

17...♖b8 18.c4

The greedy 18.♖xc6 is too risky. Black can take on b2 with the bishop, but 18...♖xb2+ 19.♖c1 ♖xa2, with a strong initiative, is probably better.

18...♗d4 19.♖he1 f6 20.a4 a6 21.♖xa6  
 ♖b3 22.♖b5 ♖a8



The queen has to leave the d-file before Black can take on b5.

23.♗b6!

23.♗c7 looks far stronger. Black's best option then seems to be 23...♖c8! 24.♗e6 ♗xe6 25.fxe6 (25.♖d5 ♖xb2+ 26.♖c1 ♖c5 27.fxe6 ♖b1+ 28.♗d2 ♖b2+ 29.♗c3 ♖a3+ 30.♗c4 ♗h7 leads to a very curious position in which the white king is reasonably safe on e4) 25...♖xe6 26.♖a2 ♖xb5 27.axb5 ♖xc4+ 28.♖b1 ♖a4 29.♖d5+ ♖h8 30.♖e4 ♖a5, and Black has good counter-chances.

23...♖a7 24.♗d7 ♖a8 25.♖xe5 ♗xb5 26.♖d5+ ♖h7 27.cxb5 ♖xa4 28.♗c4 ♖a2+ 29.♗c2 ♖c8 30.♖b1 b4  
 White resigns.

SI 28.8

- Gasseholm
- Costa

Correspondence game 1985

1.e4 c5 2.f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
 4.f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♖g5 e6 7.♗d2 ♖e7

8.0-0-0 0-0 9.f4 h6 10.♖h4 ♖d7 11.♗f3  
 A good idea: the knight avoids being swapped, making it harder for the d7 bishop to be developed, and it also prepares e4-e5.

11...♖a5 12.♖b1 ♖fd8 13.g4

White normally plays 13.♖d3 here, but opening the g-file is certainly an option.

13...♖xg4

A wisser option would be 13...♖e8 14.g5 hxg5 15.♖g5 d5 16.exd5 ♗xd5 17.♗xd5 ♖xd5, and Black seems to be slightly better again.

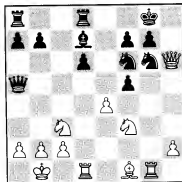
14.♖xe7 ♗xe7 15.♖g1 ♖f6 16.f5

Here White can win back his material with 16.♗d4 ♖xd2 17.♗xf6+ ♖h8 18.♗xd2 gxh6 19.♗c4, of course, but to little avail.

16...exf5

Black would be better off thinking up something else here, although White already has a reasonable attack, e.g. 16...♖f8 17.♖g2 ♗e8 18.f6 gxh6 19.♗d2 ♗g8 (19...♖h5 may be possible) 20.♖xg8+! ♖xg8 21.♖xh6 ♗g7 22.♖b5! (a great intermediate move to keep the black queen away from h5) 22...♖xb5 23.♖g1 ♖f8 24.♖xg7, and White wins.

17.♖xh6 ♗g6



18.♖xg6! fxg6 19.♖c4+ d5 20.♖xg6  
 dxc4 21.♖g1 g4

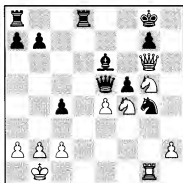
A more stubborn defence is 21...♖e8 22.♖g5 ♖c5 23.♖f7+ ♖h8 24.♖g3 fxg4 25.♖xc4 ♖g4 26.♖h3+ ♖xh3 27.♖h5+ ♖g8 28.♖xc5

♞f6 29.♞f7+ ♣h8 30.a4, but it is obvious that White has very good prospects.

### 22.♙g5 ♞e5

After 22...♙e8 White has several good possibilities, but his best bet seems to be 23.♞h7+ ♣f8 24.exf5 ♞e5 25.♙e6+ ♣e7 26.♞h4+ ♙f6 27.♞e1 ♞a5 28.♙xg7+ ♣f7 29.♞g3, and the white attack strikes home.

### 23.♙d5 ♙e6 24.♙f4!



A fine final move. White makes optimal use of the awkward position of the black queen. For example, Black loses his queen after 24...♞f4 25.♞h7+ ♣f8 26.♙e6+, while 24...♞f6 is met by 25.♞h7+ ♣f8 26.♙xg6+ ♣f7 27.♞h5+, and the white attack rolls on. Black resigns.

SI 19.2

- Diepveen
- Van Tubergen

Hengelo 1992

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 ♙c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♙f6 5.♙c3 d6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♞d2 a6 8.0-0-0 h6 9.♙h4

This looks like a blunder, 9.♙e3 or 9.♙f4 are the normal moves.

### 9...♙xe4 10.♞f4



A dangerous attacking move. After 10.♙xe4 ♞xh4 11.♙xc6 ♞xe4 there is not much in it for White.

### 10...g5

Black goes after the dark-squared bishop, accepting his crumbling pawn structure. The main line with 10...♙g5 has a solid reputation. Definitely not good is 10...♙f6? 11.♙xc6 bxc6 12.♙e4, and White has too powerful an initiative.

### 11.♞xe4

There are a few other possibilities: 11.♙xe4?! gx4 12.♙xd8 ♙xd8?! (simply 12...♙xd8 13.♙xc6+ bxc6 14.♙d6 ♙xd6 15.♙xd6+ ♣e7 leads to equality) 13.♙f5! exf5 14.♙f6+ ♣e7 15.♙d5+ ♣d7 16.♙b6+ ♣c6 17.♙xa8, and although the knight cannot get out yet, I think White is better. Less clever is 11.♙xc6 ♙xc3? 12.♞d4 ♙xa2+ 13.♙b1 bxc6 14.♞xb8 ♞a5, and Black is fine.

### 11...gxh4 12.♙xc6 bxc6 13.♞xc6+ ♙d7 14.♞f3

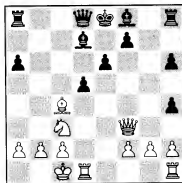
This looks better than the more common 14.♞e4, because it keeps square e4 open for the knight. The position is hard to assess, since both players are holding trumps: Black has the only open files for the black rooks (g and b-file) and a mighty dark-squared bishop, but

his position also has drawbacks: no safe square for the king (f8 looks like the best choice) and the black central pawns are vulnerable. All in all, the platitude 'balanced' position seems to fit the bill perfectly.

### 14...d5?

With the idea of keeping the white bishop away from squares c4 and b3. Correct was 14...♙e7, which for the moment pulls the worst sting from the white attack.

### 15.♙c4!



Well played. White sacrifices a piece to pry open the black king position.

### 15...dxc4

More stubborn is 15...♞b8 16.♙xd5 exd5 17.♞he1+ ♙e7 18.♞f6 ♞f8 19.♙xd5 ♞e8, but Black will never get away. 15...♙e7? 16.♙xd5 exd5 17.♙xd5 loses at once.

16.♙xd7 ♣xd7 17.♞d1+ ♙d6 18.♙e4 ♣e7 19.♙xd6 ♞g5+ 20.♙b1 ♞ab8 21.♞xf7+ ♣c6 22.♞f3+ ♣e7 23.♞f7+ ♣c6 24.♙e4 ♞bd8 25.♞xe6+ ♣b5 26.a4+ ♣a5 27.♙xg5 ♞xd1+ 28.♙a2 hxg5

And besides winning a rook with 29.♞e5+, 29.♞xc4 isn't half bad either. Black resigns.

SI 19.2

- Saulin
- Savaon

Tula 2001

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♙f6 5.♙c3 ♙c6 6.♙g5 e6 7.♞d2 a6 8.0-0-0 h6 9.♙e3 ♙xd4 10.♙xd4 b5 11.f4 ♙e7 12.♙e2

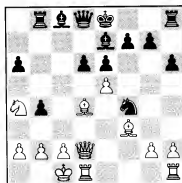
An interesting move; White wants to take his bishop to f3, where it supports the advance e4-e5. But it costs him his e-pawn, of course.

### 12...b4 13.♙a4 ♞b8

Black can take the pawn with 13...♙xe4 and, according to the latest theory, scrape a draw after 14.♞c3. This means that 13...♞b8 is far more attractive: it neutralises ♙f3, but far more importantly, the rook controls b6, causing problems for the knight on a4.

### 14.e5 ♙d5 15.♙f3 ♙xf4?

Too greedy. 15...♞c7, intending to harass the white knight even more, is better. A possible continuation is 16.♙xd5 exd5 17.exd6 ♙xd6 18.♞he1+ ♣f8 19.♙c5! ♙xc5? (falling for it: 19...♙xf4 20.♙e3 ♙xh2 21.♞xd5 ♣g8 22.♞f1, with initiative for the pawn) 20.♞c3! ♙e7 21.♙e5, winning material. Black's best bet is 15...0-0. After 16.♙xd5 exd5 17.♞c3 Black has quite a satisfactory position.



#### 16.h4

Nice, of course, but 16.exd6 is far stronger: 16...♖xd6 (Black has big problems after 16...♗g5 17.♗e3 ♗d7 18.♗c5) 17.♗xg7 ♚h7 (the natural 17...♗xd2? 18.♗xd2 ♚g8 fails to 19.♗c6+, and Black has no square left for the king) 18.♗f2, and Black has too many holes. 16...♗d5 17.exd6 ♗xh4 18.♖b1 ♗g5 After 18...0-0 White also keeps a slight plus: 19.♗d5 exd5 20.♗b6! ♗g5 21.♗c3 ♗g3 22.♗xd5, and the white d-pawn becomes a tie.

#### 19.♖e1 ♖f8?

A third refusal to castle has fatal consequences for Black; White's advantage remains manageable after 19...0-0 20.♗d5 exd5 21.♖e5 ♗f6 22.♗xd5 ♗e6 23.♗x6 ♗xf6. 20.19...♖f8? Black is done for.

20.♗d5 exd5 21.♖e5 f6 22.♗xd5 ♗d7 23.♚he1 b3 24.♗c5 bxc2+ 25.♗xc2 ♗c8 26.♖b1 ♗c6 27.♖e6 ♗e8 28.♗f5 Black resigns.

#### SI 29.2

□ Klovans  
■ Vekshenkov

Sverdlovsk 1987

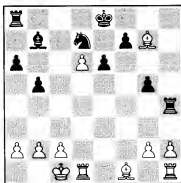
1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♗g5 e6 7.♗d2 a6 8.0-0-0 h6 9.♗e3 ♗xd4 10.♗xd4 b5 11.f4 ♗e7 12.♖e3 ♗c7 13.e5 dx6 14.fx6e5 ♗d7 15.♗e4 ♗b7 16.♗d6+ ♗xd6

A remarkable solution.

17.exd6 ♗g5 18.♗xg5 hxg5 19.♗xg7 ♚h4

A tabya position from modern opening theory. White is a pawn up and has the bishop pair, which usually militates against the idea of Black playing this. But he undoubtedly has good compensation: all his pieces are develop-

ped, he has great control in the centre and it will take White a while to relieve the pressure on his kingside.



#### 20.♗c3

More common is 20.♗d4, but I think the text is playable as well.

#### 20...♗d5 21.h3 ♗c5

Not, of course, 21...♗xa2? in view of 22.b3. 22.♗e5

An artificial move. 22.b3 ♗e4 23.♗e1 ♚h6 24.c4 bxc4 25.bxc4 ♗c6 (after 25...♗c8? 26.d7+ ♗xd7 27.♖b2 White wins a piece) 26.♗e2 ♗d7 27.♚f1 f5 28.♖b2 seems more logical to me. White is slightly better, but Black's compensation is also clear.

22...♗c8 23.b3 ♗d7 24.♗h2 ♗e4 25.♗f6 ♚f4! 26.♗xg5 ♚f2 27.♗d2?

White ought to have looked for a draw: 27.♗e3 ♗xb3+ 28.♖b1 (28.axb3 ♗xc2+ 29.♖b1 ♚b2+ 30.♖al ♚a2+ 31.♖b1 ♚b2+ 32.♖c1 ♗xb3 gives Black good chances) 28...♗e4 29.♗d3 (29.♗xf2 ♗xc2+ 30.♖b2 ♗xd1 31.♗xb5+ axb5 32.♚h1 is slightly better for Black) 29...♗xd3 30.exd3 ♗c2 31.♗f4 ♗d4 32.g4 ♗h2 33.♗xh2 ♗f3 34.♗g3 ♗h8, with equality.

27...♗xb3! 28.♖b2 ♗a4 29.♗e3 ♗xc2+ 30.♖a1 ♗e4 31.♗d3 ♗c3 32.♚hh1 ♗xd1 33.♗d1 ♗c5

The remaining endgame is hopeless, so White resigned.

#### SI 29.11

□ Wang Zili  
■ Steingrimsón

Novi Sad Olimpiad 1990

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♗g5 e6 7.♗d2 a6 8.0-0-0 h6 9.♗f4

Not as well-known as 9.♗e3, but certainly not bad. The great attraction is that it leads to different set-ups than what is commonly found in the Sicilian.

#### 9...♗d7

Black cannot win a piece with 9...e5? 10.♗xc6 bxc6 11.♗xe5, and the queen on d8 is not covered.

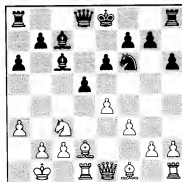
10.♗xc6 ♗xc6 11.f3 d5 12.♖e1 ♗b4 13.a3 ♗a5 14.♗d2

If White now plays e4-e5 at some stage, the positions are beginning to look a lot like those in the Tarasch variation of the French! White can also take a more frivolous approach, but after 14.b4 ♗b6 15.exd5 ♗d5! 16.♗e5 0-0 it would be hard to show an advantage.

#### 14...♗c7

Black has a wide choice: 14...♖c7, 14...♗c8, 14...d4!?, 14...0-0 are all possible and eminently playable.

#### 15.♖b1



#### 15...♖b8?

This is asking for problems. It was high time to castle: 15...0-0 16.e5 ♗d7 f7.f4, and the game is only starting.

16.exd5 ♗xd5 17.♗xd5 18.♗b4 ♗c6 19.♗c4 a5 20.♗c5 ♗e5

Black has only one hope: removing the bishop from the a3-f8 diagonal, after which he can castle. 20...b6 fails to 21.♗xe6.

#### 21.f4

21.♗xe6 fx6 22.♗d6! 0-0 23.♖xe5 ♗d5 24.♗d4 ♗f7 do not solve Black's problems either. White is probably winning.

#### 21...b6



#### 22.♖e1!

Yes, we'll settle for these moves.

22...♖c7 23.♗b5 ♗c8 24.♗xc6+ ♗xc6 25.♖xe5

The prozaic 25.♖xc6+ ♗xc6 26.♗xb6 ♗xb6 27.fx6e5 ♗e7 is probably better, but White keeps gunning for the initiative.

25...♖xc5 26.♖xg7 ♗xc2+ 27.♖a1 ♗e7 28.♚he1 ♚h8?

This makes for an amusing finale. 28...♖f5 29.g4 ♖xf4 30.♚f1 ♗h8 31.♖h7 ♚h8 32.♖d3 ♖c7 33.♖d4 ♚h7 looks pretty good for White, but I don't think it would yield him more than a draw.

29.♗xe6+ ♖xe6 30.♖e5

Mate.

## SI 30.3

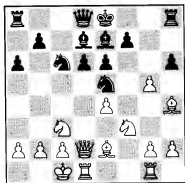
□ Ziatdinov  
■ Barbero

Montpellier 1994

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♖g5 e6 7.♖d2 a6  
8.0-0-0 ♗d7 9.f4 h6 10.♗h4 g5 11.fxg5  
♗g4

A personal favourite of mine. Black sacrifices a pawn in order to get a better pawn structure and to reserve the beautiful square e5 for the knight. This leads to lasting compensation in which even endgames are not by definition bad. But a pawn is a pawn, and the variation is definitely treading a fine line.

12.♗e2 ♗ge5 13.♗f3 ♗e7 14.♖hg1



This ugly move contains a highly original idea. Firstly, it indirectly covers the g5 pawn, but more importantly, it ties down almost all the black pieces: the queen on d8 and the e7 bishop must stay on this diagonal, the knight must stay on e5, and later we will see that the king's rook should preferably remain on h8. The drawback is that a group of white pieces also has to stay where they are.

14...♖g1?

Correct was 14...b5 in order to create some queenside play  
15.♗g3 hxg5

After 15...♗f3 16.gxf3 ♗xg5 17.f4 ♗e7  
18.♗f2 White is wholly dominant.

16.♗xe5 ♗xe5 17.♗xe5 dxex5 18.♗h5!  
This is the square that the black rook had relinquished, with fatal consequences.

♖g7 19.♗gf1 g4 20.♗b1 ♗g5 21.♖d6  
♖e7 22.♖xe5 ♗h6 23.♖f6 ♗g5  
24.♗xf7+ ♗d8 25.♖xe6

Black resigns.

## SI 30.7

□ Kestler  
■ Spassky

Dortmund 1973

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♖g5 e6 7.♖d2 a6  
8.0-0-0 ♗d7 9.f4 ♗e7 10.♗f3 b5 11.e5

Traditionally indicated as the best move, but White has an attractive alternative, 11.♗xf6 gxf6 12.♗b1 ♖b6 13.f5 0-0-0 14.g3 ♗b8 15.fxex6 fxe6 16.♗h3 ♗c8 leads to a position in which the black bishop pair will have to assume a defensive role for the moment and the three centre pawns (d6, e6 and f6) are stopped by the white pawn on e4. White has great freedom, but should be careful of a sudden break-out.

11...b4 12.exf6 bxc3 13.♖xc3 gxf6  
14.♗h4 d5 15.♗b1

White has indisputably the better pawn structure, but the black set-up itself is also quite defensible – he has a reasonable say in the centre and two open files to reinforce his attack.

15...♗a5

The direct attack 15...♗b4 16.♗d4 ♗c8 17.♖b3 ♖a5 is parried by 18.♗e1! ♗a4 19.♖a3 0-0 20.b3 e5 21.fxex5 fxe5 22.♗f5 ♗c5 23.♖xa4, and White has the last laugh.

16.f5

This action seems rather ineffective. 16.♗d4, in order to grab some squares on the queenside

and possibly defend the b-file with ♗b3, seems to make more sense.

16...♗c8 17.♖d2 ♖c7 18.fxex6 fxe6  
19.♗xa6?!

Opening one file too many. White has a clever move: 19.♗g3!. Its intention is either to provoke e5, after which d5 becomes weak, or to relieve the pressure on c2.

A possible continuation is 19...e5 (Black's best option seems to be 19...♗c4 20.♗xc7 ♗xd2+ 21.♗xd2 ♗xc7 22.♗xa6, after which he certainly has compensation for the pawn; after 19...♖b6 20.♖h6 ♗f7 21.♗e5! White already launches an attack) 20.♗xa6 ♗c4 (after 20...♗a8 21.♗e2 ♗c4 22.♖xd5 ♗a3+ 23.bxa3 ♖b8+ 24.♗c1 ♗xa3+ 25.♗d2 ♗b4+ 26.♗e3 ♖b6+ 27.♗d4 exd4+ 28.♗d4 White has had to duck quite a few checks, but in the meantime he has very dangerous threats) 21.♗xc4 ♖xc4 22.♗xe5 fxe5 23.♗xe5 ♖b5 24.♗xd7 ♖xd7, and White is better. He has possibilities in the endgame as well as attacking chances.

19...♗a8 20.♗e2 ♗c4 21.♗xc4 ♖xc4  
22.b3 ♖a6 23.c3 0-0 24.♗a1 d4!



Very aesthetic. Black finds the quickest way to make his bishops count.

25.♗xd4

If White takes with the pawn, Black plays 25...♗b4 26.♖c2 ♖f8 27.♖f2 ♗c3+

28.♖b1 ♗e8, and the bishop is switched to the h7-b1 diagonal with deadly force.

25...e5 26.♗f3

Slightly better is 26.♖h1 ♗g4 27.♗f3 (27.♗c1 loses material after 27...♗a3) 27...♗f5 28.♗e2 ♖f8, with similar turns as in the game.

26...♖f5

Impressed by the beautiful mating threat Black had in mind, White resigned: 27.g4 ♖xa2+! 28.♖xa2 ♖xa2+ 29.♖xa2 ♗a8+ 30.♖b2 ♗a3+ 31.♗a1 ♗c1 mate. He apparently didn't have the stomach to play the position after 27.a4 ♖f8 28.♖a2. Black has a choice between going for an attack with 28...♗e6 29.♖b1 ♖c6 or to liquidate to a favourable endgame with 28...♖xb3! 29.♖xb3+ ♗e6 30.♗d5 ♖xa4+ 31.♖xa4 ♖xa4+ 32.♖b2 ♗xd5.

## SI 30.10

□ Runnby  
■ Schneider

Boras 1979

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 d6 6.♖g5 e6 7.♖d2 a6  
8.0-0-0 ♗d7 9.f4 b5

Quite a logical move. Black loses no time to start action on the queenside and forces White to take on f6.

10.♗xf6 gxf6

Black would prefer to take on f6 with his queen in order to preserve his pawn structure, but 10...♖xf6 is met by 11.c5! (exploiting the position of the bishop on d7) 11...dxex5 12.♗dxex5 ♖d8 13.♗d6+ ♗xd6 14.♖xd6 exf4 15.♗e4!, and White already has a dangerous initiative.

11.f5

White usually prepares this action to put pressure on e6 with 11.♗b1 to ensure that he will not be troubled by the following manoeuvre.

11...♟xd4 12.♞xd4 ♠h6+ 13.♚b1 ♠f4  
14.♜e2 ♠e5

Black has beautifully redirected his worst bishop to the best square, e5, where it plays both a defending and an attacking role.

15.♞d3

The usual move here is 15.♞d2, after which he threatens to capture the beautiful e5 bishop with ♟f4 and ♟d3 or, in the mirror version, ♟d4 and ♟f3, landing Black with doubled pawns again and yielding White the better prospects.

15...♞b6 16.g3 ♚c8 17.♠h3 ♚c4!  
18.fxe6

White would love to chase the irritating rook on c4 away, but 18.b3 threatens nothing at all; Black takes immediate advantage: 18...♠c6! 19.♠g2 exf5, and White has already shed two pawns.

18...fxe6 19.♟f4 ♚e7 20.♞e2

The queen is on its way to g4, but Black gets his retaliation in first.

20...♞c6 21.♚he1 ♚c8 22.♚c1?



White must be extremely careful in view of the enormous black pressure. After 22.♚d2! everything is still fine: 22...♚b4 23.c3 ♠xf4 24.gxf4 (or 24.cxb4 ♠xd2 25.♞xd2 ♠e8!, also with an open fight) 24...♞xc3 is unclear. 22...♠xb2! 23.♟d5+ exd5 24.♠xd7 ♠e5

White resigns.

## Sveshnikov Variation

Black plays 2...♟c6 and 5...e5

SI 35.1

□ Polanski

■ Wydrowski

Correspondence game 1991

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
♟f6 5.♟c3 e5 6.♟f3 ♠b4 7.♠c4 ♟xe4

Alternatives are 7...d6 8.0-0 ♠e6 9.♟d5! ♟xe4 10.♞e2, and White has great compensation for the pawn; or 7...0-0 8.♠g5 (8.0-0 ♟xc3 9.bxc3 ♟xe4 is good for Black) 8...♠xc3+ 9.bxc3 ♞a5 10.♠xf6 ♞xc3+ 11.♟d2 gxf6, and here White can force a draw with 12.♞g4+ ♚h8 13.♞h4 or continue by castling or playing 12.♚b1.

8.0-0 ♟d6



This looks artificial, but it is not easy to refute. After 8...♟xc3 9.bxc3 ♠c7 (the greedy 9...♠xc3 10.♚b1 0-0 cannot be recommen-

ded in view of the terrible threats on h7 and f7 White has after 11.♟g5!) 10.♞d5 0-0 11.♟xe5 ♟xe5 12.♞xc5 d6 Black looks slightly better.

9.♠b3 0-0 10.a3

Another possibility is 10.♟d5 ♠a5 11.c3, and White controls the d4 square, while at the same time setting up ♠e1 and ♠c2. White has good compensation.

10...♠xc3 11.♞xd6 ♠a5

11...e4 12.♟g5 ♠f6 13.♟xe4 ♠e5 14.♞d3, with initiative.

12.♟xe5 ♠c7

12...♟xe5 13.♞xe5 ♠c7 14.♞h5 is better for White because he has the better pawn structure.

13.♟xf7 ♚xf7 14.♞d5



14...♞f6?

I suspect that this is Black's decisive error. 14...♞f8 15.♠g5 d6 16.♚ae1 ♠d7 17.♞b5 ♠b8 18.♠c7 ♠e5 19.♞xd7 ♟xd7 20.♠xf8

♠xf8 21.♠xf7 ♠xf7, and Black is no worse in the endgame.

15.♠g5 ♠e6 16.♠ae1 ♠e5 17.f4 ♠xd5 18.♠xd5 ♠f8 19.fxe5 ♠xf1+ 20.♠xf1+ ♠e8 21.♠f7+ ♠f8 22.♠g6+ ♠g8 23.♠e4 h6 24.♠e7 g5 25.♠d5+ Black resigns.

SI 35.1

□ Tsaturian  
■ Markaus

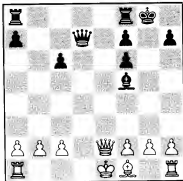
Correspondence game 1989

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♠xd4 ♠f6 5.♠c3 e5 6.♠f5

A logical move. White wants to take his knight to e3 as quickly as possible. The big drawback, however, is that Black frees himself immediately.

6...d5 7.exd5 ♠xf5 8.dxc6 bxc6 9.♠f3 ♠d7 10.♠g5 e4 11.♠e2 ♠e7 12.♠xf6 Consistent. After 12.♠d1 ♠c6 13.♠xc4 ♠b8 14.♠xe6 fxe6! 15.b3 ♠d5 16.♠xe7 ♠xc7 17.♠a4 e3 Black has the initiative, as in Akopian-Yakovich, Rostov 1993.

12...♠xf6 13.♠xe4 0-0! 14.♠xf6+ gx f6



White is a pawn up and the black position is ruined. But White has no reason to cheer at

all, as he won't be able to castle normally, which gives Black a sustained initiative.

15.♠d2

15.♠c4 ♠fe8+ 16.♠e2 ♠e4 17.♠d1 ♠c7 18.♠a6 ♠e8 19.♠d2 is no good either: after the power move 19...♠e6!, threatening ♠c4, White is in big trouble again, since 20.0-0 fails to 20...♠c8.

15...♠fe8+ 16.♠d1 ♠b7

Better is 16...♠c7, which prevents the manoeuvre ♠c1 and ♠c3 in view of check on f4. 17.b3?

After 17.♠c1! ♠ad8 18.♠c3 ♠b6 19.♠c4 ♠xf2 20.♠f1 ♠d4 21.♠xd4 ♠xd4 22.b3 White is actually better.

17...♠ad8 18.♠d3 c5 19.f3 c4 20.bxc4 ♠b6 21.♠c1 ♠b8 22.♠d1 ♠xd3 23.cxd3 ♠d4 24.♠c1 ♠e3

White resigns.

SI 35.2

□ Zettler  
■ Stummeyer

Newuid 1993

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♠xd4 ♠f6 5.♠c3 e5 6.♠db5 d6 7.♠a3

Although this game is not of particularly high quality, the idea is quite interesting. In a normal Sveshnikov the a3 knight is out of play for a good while, but here it can be activated at once via c4.

I can wholeheartedly recommend the text to anyone without the time or willingness to delve deeply into opening theory. In the only grandmaster game that I know, Black thought for all of 50 minutes before making a move, which is a good indication of the complexity of the position.

7...♠e6

An attempt to refute 7.♠a3 is 7...a6. Now White will have to go 8.♠c4 b5 9.♠e3 in order to deviate, after which 9...b4 10.♠cd5

♠xe4 wins a pawn. It is obvious that White has compensation here, and I wouldn't mind getting a chance to play this position.

8.♠c4 ♠c8 9.♠g5 ♠d4 10.♠e3 ♠a5



11.♠d2

Better is 11...♠d3. The obvious exchange sacrifice 11...♠xc3 can be met successfully by 12.♠d2! ♠xe4 (12...d5 13.bxc3 dxe4 14.♠c4±) 13.♠xe4 d5 14.bxc3 dxe4 15.♠b1. White is better.

12.bxc3 ♠xc3+ 13.♠f1 ♠e7 is less good, as 14.♠e1 fails to 14...♠xe4, because 15.♠xe7 runs into the venomous 15...♠d2+ 16.♠g1 ♠2f3+, which wins the queen.

11...♠b6 12.♠b1??

A horrible mistake, with consequences to match. White simply has to play the only other move that covers b2, after which the capture on c3 doesn't work: 12.♠c1 ♠xc3?! 13.bxc3 ♠xe4 14.cxd4 ♠a5+ 15.c3 exd4 16.♠c2!, and White is better. Bear in mind, however, that Black is not forced to take on c3.

12...♠xc3 13.♠xc3 ♠xe4 14.♠d3 ♠xg5 15.c3 ♠xa2 16.♠d1 ♠c6 17.b4 ♠e7 18.♠a1 ♠e6 19.h4 e4 20.♠c2 d5 21.hxg5 ♠xg5 22.♠e2 0-0 23.♠h5 h6 24.♠e2 ♠c8 25.♠g4 ♠xb4 26.♠h3 ♠d3+ 27.♠x3 exd3 28.♠d1 d2+

White resigns.

SI 35.5

□ Pripke  
■ Weber

Correspondence game 1986

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♠xd4 ♠f6 5.♠c3 e5 6.♠db5 d6 7.♠d5

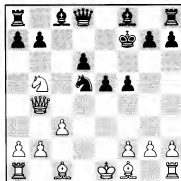
White decides not to exploit d5 and opts for a different approach; he wants to develop an initiative on the queenside with c4, b4 and finally e5. Black, on the other hand, dominates the kingside and therefore wants to start something there.

7...♠xd5 8.exd5 ♠e7

More common is 8...♠b8, after which the knight is put on d7, where it controls square c5. Later, after the typical manoeuvre e5-e4, ♠e7-f6-e5, it can go to f6 to support the attack starting from there.

9.c3 f5

Black has to be careful, as White was threatening to strike with 10.♠a4. After 9...♠g6 10.♠a4 ♠d7 the point of 9.c3 is revealed: 11.♠c4! ♠c8 (11...♠xb5 12.♠xb5+ ♠d7, with a large advantage) 12.♠b4 ♠c5 13.♠e3, and White is calling the shots. 9...♠f5 is playable, but Black preferred to have his pawn on f5. 10.♠a4 ♠f7 11.♠b4 ♠xd5



An attempt by Black to solve his problems tactically. Better is 11...♠g6, but after 12.h4

White has a solid initiative.

**12.♖c4 ♁e6 13.♖b3 ♁f4 14.♗f4 d5 15.0-0-0**

I must warn anyone who is planning to try and find improvements for Black in what follows, as 15.♗e2 exf4 16.♔d4 leaves Black with a highly compromised position.

**15...dxc4**

15...♖h4 16.♗xd5 ♖xf4+ 17.♖b1 ♖c4+ 18.♗xc4 ♗xb3 19.♗d7+ ♖f6 20.axb3 fxe4 21.♗h1, also with a large advantage.

**16.♗xd8 cxb3 17.♗xa8 bxa2 18.♖c2!**

White cleverly waits for the rook swap and keeps his hands off pawn a7, after which capture the black rooks could still get active.

**18...exf4 19.b3 g5 20.c4 ♗g7 21.♗xh8 ♗xb2 22.♖c3 ♔d4 23.f3**

Although the material is still equal, Black resigned here. Pawn a2 is going to fall, Black cannot develop counterplay on the kingside and in fact he simply enters the endgame an exchange down. Enough reasons for a correspondence player to throw in the towel.

SI 36.1

□ Gaviria

■ Rodriguez, A

Correspondence game 1995

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♁c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♖c3 e5 6.♗db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♗xf6?**

There is no particular point to this move, unless it is meant to lure one's opponent into uncharted territory!

**8...gxf6 9.♔a3**

After 9...b5 one of the main lines of the Sveshnikov arises. But Black has an interesting additional option.

**9...f5 10.♖h5 b5**

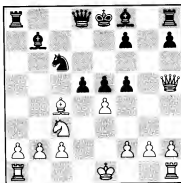
Too dangerous is 10...d5, with the intention of destroying the white position after 11.0-0-0 ♗xa3 12.bxa3. A possible continuation

would be 12...♔d4 13.♔xd5 ♗e6 14.♗c4 ♗c8 15.♗xd4! exd4 16.exf5 ♗xd5 17.♗e1+ ♖d7 18.♗xd5, and White is calling the shots.

**11.♔axb5 axb5 12.♗xb5 ♗b7**

After 12...♗d7 the uncovered rook on a8 is going to cause Black headaches.

**13.♗c4 d5**



A bold move. We know that Black has no problems after 13...♖f6 14.♔d5 ♖g6 15.♖xg6 fxg6 16.♖c7+ ♖d7 17.♔xa8 ♗xa8 18.♗d5 ♖c7, but such an endgame is not everyone's cup of tea, of course. The idea of d5 is to speed up development at the cost of a pawn.

**14.♗xd5**  
Better was 14.♗xd5 fxe4 15.0-0-0 ♖d6 16.♖b1 (Black was threatening ♖h6, with a queen swap; now he will have to resign himself to a draw) 16...♗b8 17.♔f4 ♖f6 18.♔d5 with move repetition. 14.exd5 is bad in view of 14...♔d4 and Black takes over the initiative.

**14...♖d7 15.0-0**

15.♖xf5 ♖xf5 16.exf5 ♗b4 17.0-0-0 ♗xc3 18.bxc3 0-0!. Normally in the endgame, the king should go to the centre, but here 18...♖e7? runs into the awkward 19.f6+. The endgame after 18...0-0 will be better for Black because of the ruined queenside pawn structure.

**15...♔d4 16.♖g5?**

After 16.♗xb7 ♖xb7 17.♔d5 ♗g7, preparing ...fxe4. Black is also better, but it will still be a hard slog.

**16...♗a6!**

After this deadly switch to the kingside, which mobilises all the black pieces, the battle is decided.

**17.♖g3 f4 18.♖d3 f3 19.♗fd1 ♗h6 20.♗xb7 ♗g8**

White resigns.

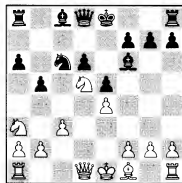
SI 37.10

□ Ramesh

■ Nijboer

Amsterdam 2000

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♁c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♖c3 e5 6.♗db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♖a3 b5 9.♔d5 ♁e7 10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.c3**



SI 37.14

□ Kasparov

■ Lautier

Moscow Olympiad 1994

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♖c3 ♁c6 6.♗db5 d6 7.♗f4 e5 8.♗g5 a6 9.♖a3 b5 10.♔d5 ♗e7 11.♗xf6 ♗xf6 12.c3 0-0 13.♔c2 ♗b8 14.h4**

A paradoxical move. White storms forward without having anything to attack. After being played by Kasparov 14.h4 instantly became popular, of course. The idea behind it is that the black bishop can no longer go to the c1-h8 diagonal. It is also the preparation for a rare occurrence in the Sveshnikov – castling queenside and a reciprocal king attack.

**14...♔e7**

Chastened by experience, black players have decided to ignore the advance h4 and mainly

stick to  $\text{d}6\text{-e}7$ ,  $\text{c}8\text{-e}6$ ,  $\text{d}8\text{-d}7$  now, followed by  $\text{e}7\text{-d}8$  and  $\text{d}8\text{-b}6$ , after which they have an acceptable position.

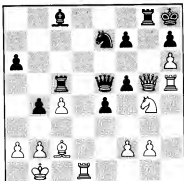
**15.  $\text{d}xf6+$   $\text{g}xf6$  16.  $\text{d}d3$   $\text{d}5$  17.  $\text{exd}5$   $\text{Wxd}5$  18.  $\text{c}e3$   $\text{We}6$  19.  $\text{Wh}5$   $\text{e}4$ ?**

This can't be good. More flexible is  $19...f5$  20.0-0-0  $\text{Wg}6$  (the a2 pawn is not captured; taking it is clearly not without risks. Black must be prepared for  $\text{c}xf5$  and  $\text{Wg}5+$ , but let's look at the typical breaking move  $\text{g}2\text{-g}4$ , after which all the pieces are involved in the attack: 20... $\text{Wxa}2$  21.  $\text{g}4$   $\text{b}4$  22.  $\text{c}4$   $\text{Wa}1+$  23.  $\text{b}1$   $\text{f}6$  24.  $\text{h}g1$   $\text{Wh}8$  25.  $\text{Wh}6$   $\text{b}7$  26.  $\text{g}xf5$   $\text{f}7$  27.  $\text{Wh}5$   $\text{f}f8$ , and a curious move repetition arises) 21.  $\text{Wg}5$   $\text{f}6$  22.  $\text{Wxg}6+$   $\text{hxg}6$ , and White's prospects should be assessed as slightly better.

**20.  $\text{c}c2$   $\text{b}4$  21.  $\text{c}4$   $\text{Wh}8$  22.0-0-0  $\text{f}5$  23.  $\text{Wg}5$ !**

Looking for dark squares. The white advantage is actually quite visible: safe king position, better pawn structure and more active pieces. **23...  $\text{b}6$**

In the rest it is also hard to indicate alternatives. After 23... $\text{f}6$  24.  $\text{Wh}6$  (24.  $\text{Wf}4$   $\text{We}5$  25.  $\text{Wxe}5$   $\text{fxe}5$  leads to the desired queen swap) 24... $\text{b}7$  25.  $\text{f}3!$   $\text{exf}3$  26.  $\text{h}h1$   $\text{fxg}2$  27.  $\text{c}d5$   $\text{exd}5$  28.  $\text{Wxe}6$   $\text{axe}6$  29.  $\text{We}3$ , for example, White has a large advantage. **24.  $\text{h}5$   $\text{c}6$  25.  $\text{cb}1$   $\text{c}5$  26.  $\text{h}6$   $\text{We}5$  27.  $\text{h}5$   $\text{hg}8$  28.  $\text{g}4$**



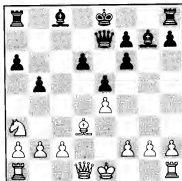
Black resigns. A beautiful final position; the pin on the fifth rank chases the black queen away. 28... $\text{Wxg}5$  29.  $\text{cxe}5$   $\text{Wxh}5$  30.  $\text{h}d8+$   $\text{c}g8$  31.  $\text{c}xf7$  is mate, while 28... $\text{We}6$  is met by the devastating 29.  $\text{h}d8$ .

SI 38.1

- Sion Castro
- San Segundo

Mondaritz 1997

**1.  $\text{e}4$   $\text{c}5$  2.  $\text{c}f3$   $\text{c}c6$  3.  $\text{d}4$   $\text{cxd}4$  4.  $\text{cxd}4$   $\text{c}f6$  5.  $\text{c}c3$   $\text{e}5$  6.  $\text{c}db5$   $\text{d}6$  7.  $\text{d}g5$   $\text{a}6$  8.  $\text{ca}3$   $\text{b}5$  9.  $\text{d}xf6$   $\text{gxf}6$  10.  $\text{c}d5$   $\text{g}7$  11.  $\text{d}d3$   $\text{c}e7$  12.  $\text{cxe}7$   $\text{Wxe}7$**



Black has managed to swap the annoying d5 knight, but is still saddled with a hopeless pawn structure. He has only one option left: activating his bishops with a few pawn sacrifices. He gladly gives away the pawn on f5, after which the a8-h1 is opened. After  $\text{c}2\text{-c}4$  he also often sacrifices b5. After the capture Black plays  $\text{d}6\text{-d}5$  to force the e4 pawn to show its hand. This also mobilises the bishop on g7. But White has several plans of battle: he can put the pawn on c4 to stop d5 for as long as possible; he can accept the material offered and hope that he will not be overrun;

or he puts the c-pawn on c3, which takes the game into slightly quieter waters. He takes only one pawn, which he often returns later against some positional compensation.

**13.  $\text{c}4$   $\text{f}5$  14.0-0-0 15.  $\text{Wf}3$   $\text{f}4$**

A relatively unknown move. The main line is 15... $\text{bxc}4$  16.  $\text{cxc}4$   $\text{d}5$  17.  $\text{exd}5$   $\text{e}4$  18.  $\text{Wc}2$   $\text{We}5$  19.  $\text{c}c2$ , after which White has slightly better prospects. The text doesn't seem to make sense, because it removes the pressure on e4. But he does threaten b4 now, after which the white knight will have little to do. And he has another f-pawn, of course.

**16.  $\text{cxb}5$   $\text{Wg}5$  17.  $\text{h}3$**

I would prefer 17.  $\text{c}c2$ , parrying the threat  $\text{c}g4$ , to prevent White losing a piece after  $\text{c}5\text{-e}4$ , e.g. 17... $\text{f}5$  18.  $\text{exf}5$   $\text{d}xf5$  19.  $\text{Wd}5+$   $\text{Wh}8$  20.  $\text{c}c4$   $\text{e}4$  21.  $\text{Wh}1$   $\text{axb}5$  22.  $\text{cxd}6$   $\text{Wg}6$  23.  $\text{c}xf5$   $\text{Wxf}5$  24.  $\text{Wxb}5$   $\text{f}3$  25.  $\text{Wxf}5$   $\text{Wxf}5$  26.  $\text{gxf}3$   $\text{exf}3$  27.  $\text{d}d3$   $\text{h}5$ , with an approximately equal position.

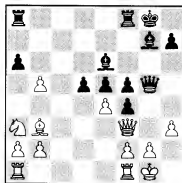
**17...  $\text{d}5$  18.  $\text{c}c2$**

18.  $\text{c}d5$   $\text{f}5$  19.  $\text{d}d6$   $\text{e}4$  20.  $\text{c}c4+$   $\text{Wh}8$  21.  $\text{Wb}3$   $\text{f}3$ .

**18...  $\text{f}5$  19.  $\text{h}3$**

19.  $\text{Wb}3$   $\text{f}3$  20.  $\text{Wxd}5+$   $\text{Wh}8$  21.  $\text{g}3$   $\text{f}4$  22.  $\text{Wxa}8$   $\text{fxg}3$ , and Black wins the attack.

**19...  $\text{d}e6$**



A nice overview of the black strategy.

**20.  $\text{exf}5$**

20.  $\text{c}d5$   $\text{d}d5$  21.  $\text{exd}5$   $\text{e}4$  22.  $\text{Wb}3$   $\text{f}3$  23.  $\text{d}g3$

$\text{f}4$  24.  $\text{g}4$   $\text{h}5$  is the, by now, well-known story. So it was high time to pull the emergency break with 20.  $\text{exd}5$   $\text{e}4$  21.  $\text{h}4$   $\text{Wxh}4$  22.  $\text{Wh}3$   $\text{Wxh}3$  23.  $\text{gxh}3$   $\text{d}d7$  24.  $\text{c}c4$   $\text{axb}5$  25.  $\text{c}b6$   $\text{h}d8$ , and Black is only slightly better.

**20...  $\text{e}4$  21.  $\text{Wg}4$   $\text{Wxf}5$  22.  $\text{ad}d1$   $\text{Wf}6$**

**23.  $\text{Wh}1$   $\text{h}5$  24.  $\text{We}2$   $\text{f}3$**

White resigns.

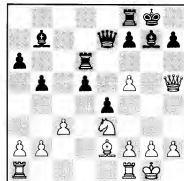
SI 38.1

- Velimirovic
- Simic

Cetinje 1991

**1.  $\text{e}4$   $\text{c}5$  2.  $\text{c}f3$   $\text{c}c6$  3.  $\text{d}4$   $\text{cxd}4$  4.  $\text{cxd}4$   $\text{c}f6$  5.  $\text{c}c3$   $\text{e}5$  6.  $\text{c}db5$   $\text{d}6$  7.  $\text{d}g5$   $\text{a}6$  8.  $\text{ca}3$   $\text{b}5$  9.  $\text{d}xf6$   $\text{gxf}6$  10.  $\text{d}d5$   $\text{d}g7$  11.  $\text{d}d3$   $\text{c}e7$  12.  $\text{cxe}7$   $\text{Wxe}7$  13.  $\text{c}3$   $\text{f}5$  14.  $\text{exf}5$   $\text{d}5$  15.  $\text{c}c2$  0-0 16.0-0  $\text{b}7$  17.  $\text{Wh}5$**

An interesting idea. White takes a few important kingside squares away from the black queen, at the same time forcing Black to show his hand, as the threat f6 cannot be ignored. **17...  $\text{e}4$  18.  $\text{d}e2$   $\text{h}d8$  19.  $\text{c}e3$   $\text{d}d6$ ?**



This is clearly less good. Correct is 19... $\text{d}4$ , which led to the following fine draw in De Koning-Pahlten, correspondence game 1993: 20.  $\text{cxd}4$   $\text{hxd}4$  21.  $\text{d}d1$   $\text{hd}2$  22.  $\text{d}d3$   $\text{h}xb2$



23.♖ad1 ♘h8 24.♙g4 e3 25.♙e3 ♖xe3  
26.fxe3 ♗xg2+ 27.♘h1 ♚g5+ 28.♖f3 ♙xf3+  
29.♚f3 ♙e5 30.e4 f6, draw.

White can deviate at will, of course, but Black's activity along the d-file and the diagonal yields him sufficient counterplay.

#### 20.♖ad1 f7d8

Black would like to play 20...♚h6, but after 21.f6! ♖xf6 22.♙g4 ♚xh5 23.♙xf6+ ♙xf6 24.♙xh5 he is lost.

#### 21.♙g4

A beautiful set-up: with his queen, knight and pawn White has full control of the kingside. Besides, Black always has to keep an eye open for f6.

#### 21...♙e8 22.♚fe1 b4?

A thematic breaking move in the Sveshnikov, but here it backfires.

#### 23.c4 dxc4

After 23...d4 24.♙d3 ♙b7 25.f3 e3 26.f6 ♙xf6 27.♖xh7+ ♘f8 White can choose his own way to the win.

24.♚xd6 ♙xd6 25.♙xc4 ♙d2 26.♙f6+ Black resigns.

her, as he successfully breaks through the blockade on d5.

#### 15...♙c8

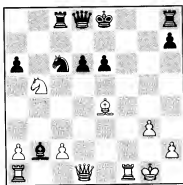
15...0-0.

#### 16.f4

An inspired attacking attempt. The positional threat is f4-f5, so Black has to react at once...

16...exf4 17.♙xf4 ♙xb2 18.♙xe6 ♖xe6

19.♙xb5!



#### 19...♖b6+!

19...axb5 loses quickly: 20.♖h5+ ♘d7 21.♚f7+ ♙c7 22.♖xb5+ ♘c7 23.♖b7 mate.

#### 20.♘h1 ♖xb5

Now 20...axb5 is also bad. After 21.♖xd6 ♙xa1 22.♙f3 he will have to give at least a queen to prevent being mated.

#### 21.♖xd6 ♖xa1

Here Black slips up; simplification is not the solution. He has many options: 21...♙e7 22.♚ae1 e5 23.♖f6 ♗g8 24.♚b1 ♚c7 25.♖f3, and White is better again. After 21...♙d8! (you can overlook such a knight retreat!) the knight covers the vital squares e6 and f7. White has to fish in troubled waters: 22.♖ad1 (after 22.♚ab1 the water is getting a bit too dark for comfort: 22...♙e5 23.♖b4 ♖d4 24.♖c1 ♚f8 25.♖xf8+ ♘xf8 26.♙xh7, and Black should be winning) 22...♙e5 23.c4 ♙xd6 24.cxb5 ♘e7 25.bxa6, with some modest prospects of saving himself.

22.♖xe6+ ♙e7 23.♖f7+ ♘d8 24.♙d1+ ♘c7 25.♖xe7+ ♘b8 26.♖d6+ ♘a7 27.♖e7+

Pity! The fire must have burnt itself out. After 27.♚xa1 White is better because the black king vainly looks for a safe haven.

27...♘b8 28.♖d6+ ♘a7

Draw.

#### SI 38.3

#### □ Luther

#### ■ Reinderman

Venlo 2000

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 ♙c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 e5 6.♙db5 d6 7.♙g5 a6  
8.♙a3 b5 9.♙xf6 gxf6 10.♙d5 f5  
11.♙xb5 axb5 12.♙xb5



This piece sacrifice has always been watched with Argus' eyes and viewed as a surprise weapon, but it has become popular again of late. And it's true that White gets back a lot, viz. two pawns to start with and often a third one as well (f5), he also gets dangerous attacking chances, and once his pawns start moving, White might even have prospects in the endgame. Black must try to complete his development, after which his active piece play is a strong trump. All in all enough ingredients to expect

to see a lot more of this variation in the future.

#### 12...♚a4

Although the universal reply – logically, because it does not only avoid the knight fork on c7, but also activates Black rook along the fourth rank. Other known moves besides the text are 12...♖g5, 12...♖a5, 12...♚b8 and 12...♚a7.

#### 13.b4

A multifunctional move that cuts the rook off from the kingside. If the pawn is taken, the b-file is opened to lend the attack against the king extra strength.

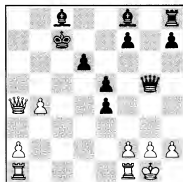
#### 13...♙xb4

13...♙xb4 14.♙bc7+ ♘d7 15.c3 ♙xd5 16.♖xa4+ ♘xc7 17.exd5, with attacking chances. For the moment, the young Englishman McShane seems to be having the last word. After 13...♖h4 14.0-0 ♗g8 15.c3 f4 16.♖xa4 ♚xg2+ 17.♘xg2 ♖g4+ he made a draw through perpetual check against the self-same Luther.

#### 14.♙bc7+ ♘d7 15.0-0 ♖g5

Probably dubious. The cheerful queen sacrifice 15...♖xc7 16.♙xc7 ♘xc7 17.c3 ♚xe4 18.♖h5, with very complicated play, is the main line, but check out Shirov's incredible *Zwischenzug* 16.c3!?

16.♙xb4 ♙xb4 17.c3! ♘xc7 18.cxb4 ♖xe4 19.♖a4



There's nothing spectacular about it, but I wouldn't be surprised if White was already

#### SI 38.2

#### □ Kapengut

#### ■ Bukhman

Minsk 1977

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
♙f6 5.♙c3 ♙c6 6.♙db5 d6 7.♙f4 e5  
8.♙g5 a6 9.♙a3 b5 10.♙xf6 gxf6  
11.♙d5 f5 12.g3 fxe4 13.♙g2 ♙e6

13...♙f5 is beautifully refuted by 14.f3! ♙g7 15.fxe4 ♙e6 16.0-0-0 17.c3, with a lasting advantage.

#### 14.♙xe4 ♙g7 15.0-0

15.♙f6+ ♙xf6 16.♙xc6+ ♘e7 17.♙xa8 ♖xa8 is known to give Black good compensation for the exchange, while 15.♖h5 ♚e8 16.♚d1 ♙e7 17.c3 ♙xd5 18.♙xd5 ♖d7 19.0-0 ♚c5 won't trouble Black too much eit-

winning. Black's problem is that his king is just not in time to make it to safety (square f6 in this case) to rebuff the invasion along the c-file.

19...**h3** 20.**hac1+** **xd8** 21.**wa8+** **xe7** 22.**cc7+**

After 22...**xf6** 23.**wd8+** **xdg6** 24.**wxg5+** **dxg5** 25.**gxh3** Black loses a bishop.

22...**xd7** 23.**wb7** **wf5** 24.**icd1** **gg8** 25.**ixd7+** **xe6** 26.**wc8** **xg2** 27.**wxg2** **wf3+** 28.**cg1** **wg4+** 29.**xf1** **wh3+** 30.**xe1**

Black resigns.

### SI 38.8

- Andersson
- Norevall

Correspondence game 1991

1.e4 c5 2.f3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.xd4  
f6 5.c3 e5 6.db5 d6 7.g5 a6  
8.a3 b5 9.xf6 gxf6 10.cd5 f5  
11.dd3 ee6 12.0-0 **xd5**

The right moment to swap. One move on, and it would have been too late: 12...**g7** 13.**wh5** **xd5** 14.**exd5** **ec7** 15.**xf5** loses a pawn.

13.**exd5** **e7** 14.**xb5**

An attempt to cash in. The main line starts with 14.c3.

14...**g7** 15.**cc3** e4 16.**cc4** **wa5** 17.**bb1**

White cannot keep the pawn, as 17.**wd2** **cc8** 18.**cxh4?** **wb6!** 19.**g5** **gg8** 20.**cd2** **xb2** 21.**cc3** **wxc3** 22.**fxe3** **axa1** 23.**axa1** allows Black to win an exchange.

Also known is 17.**ce2** **xb2** 18.**bb1** **ee5**, with chances for both sides.

17...**xc3** 18.**bxc3** **wxc3** 19.**we2** 0-0 20.**bb6**

White is eyeing the b-file and a6. But the black knight is better than the white bishop and can dangerously penetrate the white camp. 20.**axb6** **exd5** (20...**we5** 21.**cc4**

**exd5** 22.**ixd5** **wxd5**, also with equality) 21.**xb7** **aa5** 22.**ixd5** **ixd5** 23.**ifd1** **ixd1+** 24.**wxd1** **wc6**, with great drawing potential, would have been wiser. Maybe Black can give a pawn, analogously to the game.

20...**we5** 21.**wd2** 14 22.**ee1** **fb8!** 23.**wb4**

An attempt to improve his position after 23.**bb3** fails to 23...**cc8!** (23...**xb3?** 24.**axb3**) 24.**id3** **if5** 25.**c4** **wd4** 26.**wxf4** **cg6** 27.**wxf5** **exd3**, and White has too weak an attack for the piece.

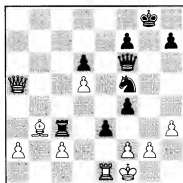
23...**ixb6** 24.**wxb6** **cc8!**

Activating all his pieces, while White is frenetically trying to cover his pawns.

25.**wxa6** **cc5** 26.**h3?**

Giving away a vital square, gratefully received by Black. But White's position was already dodgy enough as it was!

26...**ee3** 27.**cf1** **cf5** 28.**bb3** **cc3** 29.**wa5** **wf6!**



Black is ready to strike; f4-f3 and exf2 are hard to parry. If White plays f2-f3 himself, Black launches exh4 and wg5. Moreover, the pawn on e3 is an magnificent trump.

30.**ee2** **exf2** 31.**ixf2** **cg3+** 32.**cg1** **we5**

White resigns. He is powerless against the threat of 33...**we1+**. After 33.**wd8+** **xdg7** 34.**wh2** Black calmly plays 34...**h6**, and there is no perpetual check.

### SI 38.9

- Brodsky
- Kramnik

Kherson 1991

1.e4 c5 2.f3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.xd4  
f6 5.c3 e5 6.db5 d6 7.g5 a6  
8.a3 b5 9.xf6 gxf6 10.cd5 f5  
11.dd3 ee6 12.**wh5**

With both 12.**wh5** and 12.0-0 White is aiming for the position after 12...**g7** 13.0-0 f4, which is known to be good for White. See Lutz-Babula. But in both cases Black has an important deviation. After 12.0-0 this is 12...**ixd5** 13.**exd5** **ec7**, as we saw in the previous game Andersson-Norevall.

12...**gg8!**

This move has become part of the standard equipment of every Sveshnikov player. Black gladly gives away the h-pawn in order to provoke further weakenings.

13.0-0-0?! **ixg2** 14.f4

Blocking the c1-h6 diagonal and bringing wf3 into the position. But White is already too late.

14.**wf3!** at once is met by 14...**gg4!** 15.**exf5** (15.**ce3?** **cd4** 16.**wh3** **id4** 17.**wg2** **xxa2** can not be recommended) 15...**ixd5** 16.**wxd5** **cb4** 17.**wb3**, and Black is better; he controls the position and has the more active pieces.

14...**cd4** 15.**ee3**

After 15.c3 **ixd5** 16.**exd5** White is besieged as follows: 16...**b4** 17.**cxh4** **wb6** 18.**wh3** **cc8+** 19.**cb1** **xb2+** 20.**cxh2** **wxb4+** 21.**axa1** **cb3+**, and he will soon be mated. 15.**hgl** is met by 15...**fxe4** 16.**ixg2** **exd3**, also with chaos in the white camp.

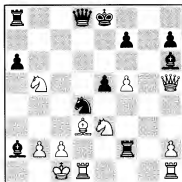
15...**if2** 16.**exf5**

16.**exf5** **ixf5** 17.**exf5** **ixf4** 18.**hfl** **wh4** 19.**wxh4** **ixh4** is clearly better for Black. 16...**axa2**

The first knot in the weaving of the mating net. 17.**fxe5**

An amusing sequence is 17.**cg4** **cc8** 18.**exf2** **cb3** mate!

### 17...dxe18...xb5 h6!



Very beautiful.

19.**he1**

After 19.**wxh6** **ixc2+** it is mate in one: 20.**exc2** **cb3** mate, or 20.**ixc2** **ce2** mate.

19...**axb5** 20.**ixb5+** **xe7** 21.**wh4+** **ff6** 22.**wxf2** **ff7** 23.**dd3**

White has managed to win the exchange, but the black attack has by no means run out of steam. 23.h3, for example, with the idea of blocking the a-file, loses after 23...**wc7** 24.**aa4** **axb3** 25.**ixd4** **exd4** 26.**cb1** **aa2+** 27.**axa2** **xf8**.

23...**wb6** 24.**ee4** **aa2** 25.**c4** **ixc4** 26.**cb1** **wa5** 27.**cd5+** **ixd5** 28.**wxd4** **ia1+** 29.**xc2** **ixd1** 30.**wxd1** **wa4+** 31.**cc3**

And White simultaneously resigned in view of 31...**wc4** mate.

### SI 38.9

- Van der Wiel
- Reinderman

Brussels 1993

1.e4 c5 2.f3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.xd4  
f6 5.c3 e5 6.db5 d6 7.g5 a6  
8.a3 b5 9.xf6 gxf6 10.cd5 f5  
11.dd3 ee6 12.**wh5** **gg8** 13.c3

Over the years, White has tried all kinds of moves here, but never with the desired result. These days, 12.♖h5 has virtually disappeared from tournament practice, which makes it a good surprise weapon.

### 13...♖xg2

The most reliable alternative is 13...♗xd5 14.exd5 ♗e7, as the telex match London-Amsterdam, 1984, had already shown!

### 14.♖f3 ♗g4 15.exf5

Here 15.h3 is very subtle; the idea is to reserve the g-file for the white queen. Play could then continue 15...♖h4 16.exf5 ♗xd5 17.♗xd5 ♗e7 18.♗g2 d5, and here 19.♗xb5?! (better is 19.♗c2 e4 20.♗e2, when Black can become active but must be extremely careful to prevent his centre from collapsing) is too enthusiastic in view of 19...♗b6.

### 15...♗xd5 16.♗xd5 ♗e7 17.♖b7 ♗h6

Certainly not 17...♗b8? in view of 18.♗xb5 axb5 19.♗xb5+ ♗d8 20.♗d7 mate. Plausible is 17...♗c8 18.♗xc8+ ♗c8 19.♗c2 ♗b6, with a pleasant endgame for Black.

### 18.f6



### 18...♗g6?

Giving away a vital tempo, and now Black is lost. Seven years later Reinderman played 18...♗g8! 19.♗c6+ (the combination with 19.♗d1 has no impact now: 19...♗xf6 20.♗c6+ ♗e7) 19...♗f8 20.♗d1 ♗f4 21.♗xh7 ♗xf6 22.♗xg8 ♗xg8 23.♗g1+ ♗f8!

against yours truly, with an equal position.

### 19.♗d1 ♗h4 20.♗e2 ♗g6 21.♖c6+ ♗f8

### 22.♗xd6 ♗e8 23.♖xe8+ ♗xe8

The queens have been swapped, but there are still tactical possibilities.

### 24.♗d3 ♗g4 25.♗xg6 ♗d8 26.♗e2 ♗g2

### 27.♗xb5+ ♗f8 28.♗d1 e4 29.♗xd8

Mate.

## SI 38.12

### □ Lutz

### ■ Babula

German Bundesliga 1999

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 e5 6.♗db5 d6 7.♗d5 a6 8.♗a3 b5 9.♗xf6 gxf6 10.♗d5 f5 11.♗d3 ♗e6 12.0-0 ♗g7 13.♖h5 f4 14.c4 bxc4 15.♗xc4 0-0**

A talya position. White has firm control of square d5, the c-file is suitable for an invasion and pawns a6 and d6 are weak. Black holds square d4 for the moment, as the a3 knight is still out of play, and the pawn on f4 gives him some slight attacking chances. But he should take into account that the dynamic ...♗h8 and f7-f5 are often followed by ♗xf4.

All in all, White is clearly better, although there is considerable potential for a draw.

### 16.♗ac1 ♗b8 17.b3

After 17.♗xa6 ♗c7 18.♗xe7+ ♖xe7 White must return a pawn, as 19.b3? hands Black the initiative after 19...♗a8 20.♗c6 ♗d7 21.♗b6 d5. **17...♗a5**

The idea behind 16...♗b8 and 17...♗a5 is to swap both a-pawns, which gets rid of one black weakness. The main line is 17...♗d7.

### 18.♗c2!

Far more dangerous than 18.♗b1 ♗h8 19.♗f1 ♗xa2 20.♗bc3 ♗a5 21.♗a1 ♗c5 22.♗xa6, after which White has only a minor plus.

### 18...♗xa2 19.♗cb4!

A spectacular idea that throws the entire

set-up with 17...♗a5 into doubt.

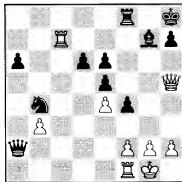
### 19...♗xb4

19...♗xb4 20.♗xb4 ♗xb4 21.♗xc6 fxe6 22.♗c7 ♗h8 leads to transposition of moves with the game, while 22...♗xb3 23.♗fc1 ♗h8 loses because White can take on g7, and Black is soon mated.

### 20.♗e7+ ♗h8 21.♗xe6 fxe6?

Black's last chance is 21...♗b7, although White has many ways of aiming for an advantage, e.g. 22.♗f5 h6 23.♗c8! ♗xb3 24.♗b1 ♗c3 25.♗xd6 ♗c7 26.♗g4, and with the knight getting to f5 it is clear that White is better.

### 22.♗g6+ ♗g8 23.♗xf8 ♗xf8 24.♗c7 ♗h8



### 25.♗fc1?

Squandering the full point. White could have won by making proper use of the several mating threats and the open c-file: 25.♗g4! ♗g8 26.♗xe6 h6 (Black was forced to make an escape hatch) 27.♗c8 ♗f8 28.♗xf8+ ♗xf8 29.♗f7 ♗g7 30.♗c1 ♗c2 31.♗f5!, and after this power move White wins a piece and the game.

### 25...♗d2!

Sticking to the rook on c1.

### 26.♗g5 ♗g8 27.♗c8 h6 28.♗g6 ♗f8

### 29.♗h7 ♗g8 30.♗c8 ♗f8 31.♗c7

Draw.

## SI 38.13

### □ Mokry

### ■ Lanc

Budapest 1961

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♗db5 d6 7.♗f4 e5 8.♗g5 a6 9.♗a3 b5 10.♗xf6 gxf6 11.♗d5 f5 12.exf5 ♗xf5 13.♗f3!**

The early days of the Sveshnikov must have been a great time. White is going to win material, accepting that this allows Black a speedy development.

### 13...♗d4 14.♗c7+

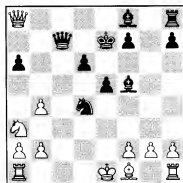
An attempt to make a draw goes wrong after 14.♗f6+ ♗e7 15.♗d5+ ♗e6!

### 14...♗xc7 15.♗xa8+ ♗e7 16.c3 b4!

The position must be thrown open as quickly as possible, before White gets around to castling.

### 17.cxb4

17.cxd4 bxa3 would definitely cost a rook.



### 17...♗b6

Long debates have raged about the question of whether 17...♗b6 leads to a win. The text, however, is extremely dangerous.

### 18.♗xa6

Less good is 18.♗c4 ♗xb4+ 19.♗f1 ♗xb2 20.♗c1 ♗xa3, which is now followed by the many checks that make little difference to the final assessment: 21.♗a7+ ♗d8 22.♗b8+

♘c8 23. ♖b6+ ♔d7 24. ♖a7+ ♘c6 15. ♖a8+ ♘b7 26. ♖e8+ ♘c5 27. ♖f7. Black is better, but he can still slip up.

### 18... ♖xb4+ 19. ♔f1 ♘d2

After 19... ♖xb2 20. ♖b7+ ♖xb7 21. ♘xb7 Black certainly has compensation, but he has lost his greatest trump: 'mate'.

### 20.h4 ♘h6 21. ♖b7+?

White escapes by the skin of his teeth with 21. ♖xb8, and now 21... ♘d3+ is a draw, of course. Black can still create play with 21... ♖xb2 22. ♘d1 ♖xa3 23. ♘c4 ♘c3 24. ♘b3 ♘d3+ 25. ♔g1 ♘e2+, and White would be better off to stay away from h2.

### 21... ♔f6 22. ♔e1 ♘c8!!

Funnily enough, this mating turn is apparently not obvious, as witness the many games in which 22... ♘d3+ was played.

### 23. ♔b1

White can dodge mate with 23. ♖xc8 ♘xc8 24. ♘xc8 ♘d3+ 25. ♔g1 ♘e2+, but the final result will be the same.

### 23... ♖xe1+

White resigns.

SI 38.16

- Jenni  
■ Jelen

Baden 1999

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♔f6 5.♘c3 e5 6.♘db5 d6 7.♘g5 a6 8.♘a3 b5 9.♘xf6 gxh6 10.♘d5 f5 11.c3 ♘g7 12.exf5 ♘xf5 13.♘c2 0-0 14.♘c3 ♘e6 15.♘d3 f5

One of the main lines of the Sveshnikov, which leads to a very dynamic position in which nuances in the move order are of great importance. A certain amount of relevant knowledge won't go amiss here. White has two obvious plans: besieging pawns a6 and b5 with a2-a4, but also – and far more popular – the set-up with ♖h5, which yields a lot more in the way of attacking chances.

### 16. ♖h5 ♔a7

16...e4 17.♘c2 ♘c7 18.♔f4 ♘f7 19.♘b3 d5 20.♖g5, which leads to great complications, is the most common continuation here.

### 17. ♘c2

17.♘xf5 ♔xf5 18.♘xf5 ♘xd5 19.♘d1 ♘f7 20.♖xh7+ ♔f8 does not overly impress.

Tempting was 17.g4?, but after 17...e4 18.♘c2 f4 19.♘xe4 ♘xc3+ 20.bxc3 fxe3, Black is fine.

### 17... ♔af7 18.g4 ♘d5

Bad is 18...e4? 19.♔f4.

### 19. ♔xd5 e4



### 20.f4!

An amazing move – White takes the time to nip an important counter-action (♘c6-e5) in the bud.

### 20... ♔a5

This manoeuvre is too slow. In my opinion Black should play 20...exf3 e.p., after which White faces the difficult choice of how to castle: 21.0-0-0 (better is 21.0-0 ♘e7 22.♘xe7+ ♖xc7 23.♘xf5 ♖e3+ 24.♔f2, and White is better) 21...b4 22.♘f5 ♔xf5 23.gxf5 bxc3 24.bxc3 ♖a5, and Black has extremely dangerous counter-chances.

21.0-0-0 ♔c4 22.gxf5 ♔xf5 23.♖e2 ♖a5 24.♘b3 ♔h8 25.♘xc4 bxc4 26.♖xc4 ♔h5 27.♔hg1

Black resigns. 27... ♔h2 28.♔xg7 ♔xg7 29.♔g1+ ♔h6 30.♖xe4 means utter decimation and will soon be followed by mate.

## Taimanov and Paulsen Systems

Black plays 2...e6 without 4...♘f6

SI 39.5

- Mnatsakanian

### ■ Taimanov

Erevan 1986

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 a6 6.g3 ♔ge7

The set-up with the king's knight on e7 is typical for the way Taimanov himself used to play his own variation.

### 7. ♘g2

With 7.♘b3 White can avoid the exchange on d4, which favours Black.

### 7... ♘xd4 8. ♖xd4 ♘c6 9. ♖d1

The moves 9.♖c3 and 9.♖d2 have also been played here; not that they are stronger, though.

### 9... ♘e7

9...♘c5 is also worth considering.

### 10.0-0-0 11.♘e3

11.a4 ♖c7 12.♖e2 ♔a5 is good for Black, according to Taimanov.

### 11...b5 12.f4

12.♘d5 is interesting, but not particularly strong: 12...exd5 13.exd5 ♘b7 14.dxc6 ♘xc6 15.♘d4 ♘c8 16.c3 ♔e8 17.♔e1 ♘f8, with a roughly equal position, Faibisovich-Taimanov, Leningrad 1973.

### 12...♘b7 13.♖e2 ♔c8 14.♖f2?!

Better is 14.♔ad1. After 14...♔a5 15.♔h1 ♘c4 16.♘c1 the position is approximately equal, Taimanov.

### 14...♔a5! 15.♔d1

After 15.♘b6 Black can choose between 15...♖xb6 16.♖xb6 ♘c5+, with good play,

and 15...♖e8!?, after which 16.♘xa5? won't work in view of 16...♘c5.

### 15...♘c4 16.♘d4 f6 17.c3

17.♖e2 e5 18.♘f2 may be a better idea, according to Taimanov again.

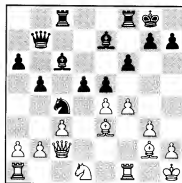
### 17...e5 18.♘a7 ♖c7 19.h1

The threat was 19...♔a8, followed by 20...♔xa7, and 19.♘c3 would have run into 19...♘xe4.

### 19...♘e2 20.e3

Back with its tail between its legs... 20.b3 is met by 20...♘d6 21.♔e1 ♖b7 22.♖e3 exf4 23.gxf4 ♔f1, with a winning position, Taimanov.

### 20... ♖b7 21. ♖c2 d5!



Opening the position like this makes for a quick decision.

### 22.exd5 ♘xd5 23.♘xd5+ ♖xd5+

24.♖g2 ♔fd8 25.fxe5? A mistake; but after 25...♖xd5+ ♘xd5 26.♔e1 ♘d8 White has a miserable position.

### 25... ♖xg2+ 26. ♔xg2 ♔xd1

White resigned.



1984, saw 14...f5 15.♔d5 ♖a5 16.♔f4 fxc4 17.♔c7+, with advantage for White.

**15.♔f4 ♖h5 16.♔d5!**

Now Black is deftly seen off.

**16...exd5 17.♔xg6 hxg6 18.♔xe7+ ♔d8** Or 18...♔xe7 19.♔e1+, and mate.

**19.♔e8+**

Black resigned; there follows 19...♔xc6 Or 18...♔xe7 19.♔e1+, and mate.

SI 40.1

Matulovic  
 Janosevic

Porec 1970

**1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 ♔c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 e6 5.♔c3 ♖c7 6.g3 a6 7.♔g2 ♔f6 8.0-0 ♔e7 9.♔e1 0-0 10.♔xc6 bxc6**

10...dxc6?! is probably stronger; after 11.e5 ♔d8 12.♖e2 or 12.♖f3 White has slightly more space, but it is nothing special.

**11.e5 ♔d5 12.♔e4!?**

A promising pawn sacrifice. Another move is 12.♔a4, when White remains slightly better.

**12...♖xe5 13.c4 ♔f6 14.♔g5!?**

Unclear is 14.♔f4 ♖xb2 15.♔d6 ♖a3 16.♖d2 ♔e8 17.♔xc8 ♖xc8 18.♖xd7, Ciric-Janosevic, Vrsac 1969.



**14...♖a5?**

White suddenly gets a winning attack. 14...♖xb2? is also bad in view of 15.♔b1 ♖xa2 16.♔xf6+ ♔xf6 17.♔xf6 gxf6 18.♔d4! ♔g7 19.♔a1 ♖b3 20.♔c4, but after 14...♖f5 things are not totally clear; in his book *The Taimanov Sicilian*, Burgess concludes that White still has dangerous play – he suggests 15.g4, but after 15...♖a5 16.♔xf6+ ♔xf6 17.♔xf6 gxf6 that pawn is definitely slightly in the way of the white pieces.

**15.♔xf6+ ♔xf6 16.♔x6 gxf6 17.♔e4 ♔h8 18.♖d4 ♖d8**

Or 18...e5 19.♖d6.

**19.♔h4 d5 20.♔h6! e5**

No better is 20...♔g7 21.♖h4 ♔h8 22.♔d1, with the threat of 23.♔xe4. After 22...f5 White wins with 23.♔xh7+, while 22...♔b7 is met by 23.♔d4 f5 24.♖h5.

**21.♖h4 ♔f5 22.♔h3! ♔g6 23.♔xh7+**

Black resigned in view of 23...♔xh7 24.♔f5, and mate.

SI 40.2

Hector  
 Mortensen

Reykjavik 1995

**1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 ♔c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♖c7 5.♔c3 e6 6.♔e3 a6 7.♔d3 b5 8.0-0 ♔b7 9.♔b3 ♔e5?!**

A more solid idea is 9...♔f6 10.f4 d6, transposing to a Scheveningen set-up.

**10.f4 ♔c4**

10...♔xd3 11.cxd3 is good for White.

**11.♔d4! d6**

After 11...♔xb2 White plays 12.♔xb5 axb5 13.♔xb2, with good play; but 11...♔e7, intending to possibly play ...♔c6, may be an option.

**12.♖e2 e5**

A quiet move like 12...♔f6 would have been met strongly by 13.a4! So Black must put something out of his hat quickly, except that

his position is not solid enough for this – his lag in development, and especially the exposed position of his king on e8, have fatal consequences.

**13.♔d5! ♔xd5 14.exd5 ♔e7**

Maybe Black should have played 14...f6, but who likes to play such a move?

**15.fx6 dx65**

15...♔xe5 is met by the very awkward 16.a4!

**16.♔xc4 exd4**

Black's only option, otherwise he loses the pawn on c5. But now the storm really breaks over the black position.



**17.d6! ♖xc4 18.♖f3 ♔b8**

Or 18...♔a7 19.♔a1 ♔f6 20.dxe7, with a winning position. After 18...♔d8 19.♔a5 ♖e6 20.dxe7 ♔xe7 21.♔a1 ♖d5 22.♔c6!, too, Black might as well resign.

**19.♔a1 f6**

Black has run out of useful moves. Moreover, the threat 20.♔a5 was looming again.

**20.♔xe7+ ♔f8 21.♔a5 ♖c5**

To meet 21...♖b4 the following forced winning line was found after the game: 22.♖d5! ♔xd5 23.♔xf7+ ♔g8 24.♔xg7+ ♔f8 25.♔ef7+ ♔e8 26.d7+ ♔d8 27.♔c6+ ♔c7 28.d8♖++ ♔xc6 29.♔f6! ♔xf6 (or 29...♔e5 30.♔c7+ ♔xc7 31.♖xc7+ ♔d5 32.♖c6+, and mate) 30.♖c7+ ♔d5 31.♔g5+, and mate on the next move.

**22.♖b3 ♖h5 23.♔c6 ♔c8 24.d7 ♔d8**

**25.♔e8+!**

Black resigned in view of 25...♔xe8 26.♔xd8 ♔f6 27.♔c6, or 25...♔xe8 26.♖b4+ ♔g8 27.dxe8♖+ ♔xe8 28.♔e7+, and mate.

SI 40.4

Golubev  
 Podinic

Bucharest 2001

**1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 e6 3.♔c3 ♔c6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♔xd4 ♖c7 6.♔e3 a6 7.♔d3 ♔f6 8.0-0 e5**

Here 8...♔xd4 9.♔xd4 ♔c5 gives White the better position after 10.♔xc5 ♖xc5 11.♔a4 ♖e7 12.c4, but 8...b5 is quite playable, as is 8...d6, which transposes to the Scheveningen. Black loses the present game, but I don't think this was caused by the text-move.

**9.h3**

Black was threatening 9...♔eg4.

**9...♔c5**

9...b5 is not bad either, e.g. 10.f4 ♔c4 11.♔xc4 ♖xc4 12.e5 ♔d5, with a roughly equal position.

**10.♔h1 d6 11.f4 ♔g6**

Taking the d3 bishop for White: 11...♔xd3 12.cxd3, with good play. The knight move 11...♔c6?! is regarded as less good in view of 12.e5!, the point being 12...dxe5 13.♔db5! axb5 14.♔xc5, with a winning advantage. But 11...♔e7 is probably quite playable.

**12.♖e1!?**

The alternative is 12.♖f3, e.g. 12...0-0 13.♔a1 b5 14.f5 ♔e5, with approximately equal chances. Hector-Pia Cramling, Malmö 1997.

**12...0-0 13.f5 ♔e5 14.♖h4 b5**

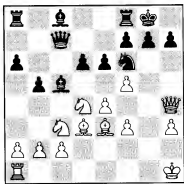
In the previously played game Mitkov-Rublevsky, Neum 2000, Black played 14...♔d7, which was followed, as in the present game, by 15.♔f3? ♔xf3 16.gxf3: 16...♔h8? (stronger is 16...♖d8, e.g. 17.♔g1 ♔e8! 18.♖h5 e5 19.♔d5

♞xd4 20.♞xd4 exd4 21.f6 ♠xf6 22.♠xf6+ ♞xf6 23.e5 ♞g6!, with an unclear position, Mitkov) 17.♞g1 ♞d8 18.e5! dx5 19.♞xg7! ♞g8 20.♞xg8+ ♠xg8 21.♞g5, and White wins.

### 15.♞f3!

An interesting exchange sacrifice; the g-file is opened.

### 15...♠xf3 16.gxf3



### 16...♞b6?

This loses by force. There are stronger possibilities. For a start there is 16...♞h8?! 17.♞g1 ♞g8 18.♞xg7 ♞xg7 19.♞xf6 ♞d7 20.♞h6 ♞g8, and in this unclear position the players abruptly agreed a draw, Averiyanov-Blimke, Polanica Zdroj 2001. The other possibility is 16...♠e8?! 17.♞g1 g6 18.♞g4 ♞b7?! (but not 18...b4?! 19.♠ce2 c5? 20.♞h6 d5 21.♞h4 f6 22.♠e6 ♞xe6 23.♞xc5, Nedeve-Comas, Batumi 1999) 19.♞h6, with unclear play.

### 17.♞g1! ♠xd4

Games played on the Internet are also part of the theory these days. The white player, for example, had won a blitz game against Naumann in the previous year after 17...♠e8 18.♞xg7+! ♠xg7 19.f6 ♞h8 20.fxg7+ ♠g8 21.♞xh7+ ♠xh7 22.gxf8 ♞1-0.

### 18.e5! ♠xe3 19.♞xg7+! ♠h8

After 19...♠xg7 White wins with 20.fx6+ ♞h8 21.fx66.

### 20.♞xh7+! ♠xh7 21.f6

Black resigned.

### SI 40.5

□ Velimirovic

■ Vasiukov

Tbilisi 1973

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♠xd4 e6 5.♠c3 a6 6.♠e2 ♞c7 7.0-0 b5

For 7...♠f6, see the games Moizhess-Ivanov and Kuzmin-Sveshnikov, SI 40.6.

### 8.♠xc6 ♞xc6?!

This is risky, as we will see. After 8...dxc6 9.f4 White has a slightly more pleasant position, e.g. 9...♠b7 10.♠h1 ♠c7 11.♞e1 b4 12.♠b1 c5 13.♠d2, Short-Leko, Groningen 1996.

### 9.♠f3 ♠b7 10.♠f4! d6

10...♞d8 is met very strongly by 11.a4! b4 12.♠d5!, while after 10...♞c8 11.e5 ♞c7 12.♠e4 White is also better.

### 11.♞e1!

Threatening 12.a4 b4 13.♠d5!

### 11...e5



### 12.a4!

This is an improvement on a game played earlier: 12.♠d2?! ♠f6 13.a4 bxa4 14.♞xa4 ♠c7 15.♠g5 0-0, with a roughly equal position, Geller-Taimanov, interzonal tournament Palma de Mallorca 1970.

### 12...b4

After 12...exf4 13.e5 d5 (or 13...♞b6 14.exd6+ ♠d8 15.axb5) 14.♠xd5 0-0-0 15.axb5 ♞xb5

16.c4 ♞e8 17.♞b3 White has a winning attack. Relatively best may be 12...bxa4, but after 13.♞xa4 White is definitely better.

### 13.♠d5 exf4 14.c3!

Unclear is 14.e5! 0-0-0 15.♠e7+ ♠xe7 16.♠xc6 ♠xc6. Black has three pieces for the queen, which is rather a lot.

### 14...b3?!

14...bxc3 is met by 15.♞c1! ♞d7 16.e5 dx5 17.♞xc3 ♠xd5 18.♠xd5 ♞d8 19.♞xe5+ ♠e7 20.♠c6 ♞xc6 21.♞d8+ ♠xd8 22.♞xc6 ♠f6 23.♞xa6, and the endgame is very good for White, although Black may still be able to put up a fight. After the text he will be overrun in short order. 14...0-0-0 15.exb4, incidentally, also gives White a winning attack.

### 15.e5 0-0-0

Or 15...dx5 16.♞xe5+ ♠d8 17.♠c7+ ♞d7 18.♠xb7, and it's curtains.

### 16.♞xb3 ♠b8 17.♠b4 ♠d7

Or 17...♞b6 18.♠c6+.

### 18.♠xb7 ♠xb7 19.♠d5+ ♠a8 20.♠b6+ ♠a7 21.♠xd7 ♠d7 22.♠ad1

Black resigned.

### SI 40.6

□ Hennings

■ Csulits

East Germany 1965

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♠xd4 ♠c6 5.♠c3 a6 6.♠e2 ♞c7 7.♠e3 ♠f6 8.0-0 ♠b4 9.♞e1

The usual moves are 9.♠xc6 and 9.♠a4. The text is nice, but probably not really strong.

### 9...♠xc3?!

Black would have done better not to take the pawn. Good is 9...♠e7!?, e.g. 10.♞d3 ♠xc3 11.bxc3 d5, with roughly equal play. 9...0-0 also comes into consideration.

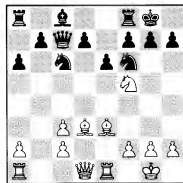
### 10.bxc3 ♠xe4 11.♠d3 ♠f6

11...♠xc3 is met by 12.♞g4, while 12.c4 is a strong response after 11...d5.

### 12.♠f5!

Now the point of 9.♞e1 is revealed. The knight is invulnerable in view of 13.♠f4+.

### 12...0-0



### 13.♠xg7! ♠xg7 14.♠h6+!

With these two beautiful sacrifices the black king is, as it were, sucked out of its hiding place.

### 14...♠xh6

14...♠g8 is hopeless as well in view of 15.♞f3.

### 15.♞d2+ ♠h5

Retreating won't help either: 15...♠g7 16.♞g5+ ♠h8 17.♞xf6+ ♠g8 18.♞c3.

### 16.♞e3 ♠e5 17.♞h3+ ♠g4 18.♞e2+ ♠g5 19.♞e3+

Black resigned.

### SI 40.6

□ Kuzmin, Gennady

■ Sveshnikov

Moscow 1973

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♠xd4 ♠c6 5.♠c3 ♞c7 6.♠e2 a6 7.0-0 ♠f6 8.♠e3 ♠b4 9.♠xc6

9.♠a4 is the most common move these days. See, for instance, Moizhess-Ivanov.

### 9...bxc6

After 9...dxc6 White also plays 10.♘a4. Another option is 9...♙xc3 10.bxc3 ♖xc6.

### 10.♘a4 0-0 11.c4 ♘d6?!

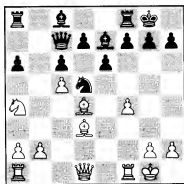
11...♗xe4? is bad in view of 12.c5 ♖e5 13.♘d4 ♗f4 14.♙xg7 ♗xg7 15.♖d4+, but 11...♗e7?! is quite playable. The bishop turns out to be misplaced on d6.

### 12.f4! ♗xe4 13.c5 ♗e7 14.♘d3 ♗f6

14...f5 15.♙xe4 fxe4 16.♖d4 also favours White.

### 15.♘d4 ♘d5?

This is beautifully refuted. After 15...g6 White would have kept Black in a stranglehold with 16.♖e2, followed by the manoeuvre ♘a4-b6-c4. Maybe 15...♗d8 would have been Black's best option.



### 16.♖b6

White prepares the double bishop sacrifice. But this was unnecessary: 16.♙xh7+ ♗xh7 17.♖h5+ ♔g8 18.♙xg7! ♗xg7 19.♖g4+ ♗h8 20.♖f3 ♗f6 21.♖h3+ ♗h7 22.♖h5, and mate!

### 16...♗xb6

After 16...♖b8 the bishop sacrifices decide as well.

### 17.♙xh7+ ♗xh7 18.♖h5+ ♔g8 19.♙xg7! ♗xg7 20.♖g4+ ♗h7 21.♖f3 ♙xc5+ 22.♗h1

Black resigned.

### SI 40.6

□ Moizhess

■ Ivanov, Viktor

Moscow 1998

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6 5.♗d3 ♖c7 6.♗e2 a6 7.0-0 ♗f6 8.♙e3 ♖b4 9.♗a4 ♗e7

Taking the pawn is bad: 9...♗xe4? 10.♗xc6 ♖xc6 11.♗b6 ♖b8 12.♖d4 ♗f8 13.♗f3. After the text Black does threaten to take on e4.

### 10.♗xc6

Interesting is 10.c4; White calmly allows Black to take the pawn: 10...♗xe4 11.c5 0-0, and both 12.♖c1 and 12.g3 yield White positional compensation for the pawn.

### 10...bxc6 11.♗b6 ♖b8 12.♗xc8 ♖xc8

Less good is 12...♗xc8?! 13.♙xa6 ♖b8 14.♘d3 ♖xb2 15.♘d4 ♖b8 16.e5 ♘d5 17.c4 ♗b4 18.♙e4, with good play for White in the game Belavskiy-Damljanovic, Alicante 1978.

### 13.e5

13.♘d4 has also been played here. I have to refer you to the theory books or the databases.

### 13...♘d5 14.♘c1

After 14.♘d4 the correct reply is 14...c5.

### 14...♙c5 15.c4 ♗e7 16.b3 ♖c7 17.♙b2 d6!?

Active counterplay! After 17...0-0 18.♘d3 White keeps a slightly better position.

### 18.exd6 ♙xd6 19.♖d4

After 19.g3 Black plays 19...♙c5, with an approximately equal position.

### 19...c5

Black is more or less forcing White to take on g7. 19...♗f5, although obvious, is less good: 20.♖e4 ♙xh2+? 21.♗h1 h5 22.♗ad1, with winning play for White, Matulovic-Portisch, Interzonal tournament, Sousse 1967.

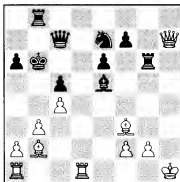
### 20.♖xg7 ♙xh2+ 21.♗h1 ♗g8 22.♖f6

Taking on h7 with 22.♖xh7?! is probably too risky: 22...♙e5. 22.♖c3 ♗f5 also looks good for Black.

### 22...♙g6 23.♖h8+ ♗d7!?

Black wants to see whether there is more in it than move repetition via 23...♗g8.

### 24.♖xh7 ♙e5 25.♖fd1+ ♗c6 26.♙f3+ ♗b6



### 27.♙xe5

Now it is another case of forced move repetition. Burgess has suggested the counter-sacrifice 27.♗d7 ♖xd7 28.♙xe5, which is an interesting idea! White may well have good prospects.

### 27...♖xe5 28.♖x7 ♖h8+ 29.♗g1 ♗g7 30.♖d6+! ♗c7

30...♙a5? is bad: 31.b4+! cxb4 32.♖xc6, and White wins, e.g. 32...♖xa1+ 33.♗d1.

### 31.♖c6+ ♗b8 32.♖b6+ ♗c7 33.♖c6+ ♗b8

Draw.

### SI 40.7

□ Renet

■ Taimanov

Montpellier 1986

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 e6 5.♗d3 a6 6.♗e2 ♖c7 7.0-0 ♗f6 8.♗h1 ♖b4

A good alternative is 8...♗xd4 9.♖xd4 ♘c5 10.♗d3 b5.

### 9.♗xc6 bxc6

With 9...♖xc6 Black can win at least a pawn,

although this is risky enough: 10.e5 ♙xc3 11.bxc3 ♖xc3 12.exf6 ♖xa1 13.♖d6 ♖xf6 14.♘a3, with compensation for the sacrificed material, or 10.♘d3 ♙xc3 (after 10...b5 11.♘d2 ♘b7 12.f3 White has good play, Xie Jun-Taimanov, Munich 2000) 11.bxc3 ♗xe4 12.♖g4 ♗f6 13.♖g3 (and not, of course, 13.♖xg7? ♖g8, and White might as well resign), with good compensation.

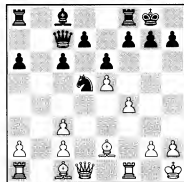
### 10.f4 0-0

Here, too, winning the pawn must be very risky for Black: 10...♙xc3?! 11.bxc3 ♗xe4 12.♖d4 ♗f6 13.♘a3, but 10...d5 is a playable option.

### 11.e5 ♙xc3!?

After 11...♗e8?! White plays 12.♗e4!

### 12.bxc3 ♘d5



### 13.♖f3!?

This is not a sensible idea. 13.♘d3 c5 14.c4 ♗b4 15.♘e4 ♘b7 is also good for Black, but 13.♘f3! was possibly stronger: 13...♙a5!? 14.c4 ♗c3, with a unclear position. 13.♖d3! was also a good alternative, according to Taimanov.

### 13...c5 14.c4 ♗e7 15.♖b1 ♗f5 16.♘d3 ♘b7 17.♖h3 g6

Black has won the opening phase. White will succumb to the pressure along the b7-g2 diagonal. The white action on the kingside is of little consequence.

### 18.♘d2 ♖ab8 19.♖b3 d5! 20.♙xf5?

20.exd6 e.p. ♖xd6 21.♗f1 would have been



stronger, Taimanov.

**20...exf5 21.♖bg3 f6!**

White was threatening 22.♖h5.

**22.exf6 d4!**

The rest is easy.

**23.♖b3 ♗xf6 24.♖b1 ♖e6 25.♗hg3 ♗e2**

**26.♖d1 ♗be8 27.h3 ♖e6 28.♗bf3 ♖e6**

**29.♖b3 ♖c6 30.♖h2 ♖xc4**

White resigned.

SI 41.9

Mazi

Pavasovic

Bled 2000

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6**

**5.♗c3 b5 6.d3 6.♗d3 ♖b6 7.♗e3 ♗c5**

**8.♖g4!**

In NIC Yearbook 57 this move was called the novelty of the year. Up to that time, 8.♗e2 had always been regarded as the only move here.

**8...♗xd4**



**9.e5! ♗xe3**

The safest reaction is 9...♗c6!?, after 10.♖xg7 ♗xe5 11.♖xe5 ♗xe5 12.♗xb6 ♗xd3+ 13.cxd3 White is at most marginally better.

**10.♖xg7 ♗xf2+ 11.♖f1 ♗h4**

After 11...♗c6 12.♖xh8 ♗f8 (after 12...♗c7, 13.♗a4 is strong) 13.♗xh7 ♖c3 14.♖xg8+

♗e7 15.♗e4 ♗b7 16.♖g5+ ♖xg5 17.♗xg5 d5 14.♖xh8 dxe4 15.♖xg8+ ♗e7 16.♖g4!, e.g. 16...♗g5 17.♗xe4 h6 18.h4 f5 19.exf6+ e.p. ♗xf6 20.♗xf6 ♗xf6 21.♗h2, and White wins, again according to Gallagher.

**13.♖xh8**

13.♗g1 is also worth considering, Gallagher. **13...♗xh1 14.♖xg8+ ♗e7 15.gxh4** 15.♖g4!, as played in the premiere of 8.♖g4!?, Gallagher-Milov, Biel 2000, is stronger. After 15...♗d8 16.♖xh4+ ♗e7 White would have remained better after 17.♗e1! ♗c6 18.♖xh7.

**15...♗e3 16.♗e1**

An alternative was 16.♖g5+!?, Gallagher.

**16...♖f4+ 17.♗g1 ♗f3 18.♗e4!**

An amusing move, but according to Gallagher, 18.♖g5+ would still be stronger, and White is slightly better. Now it will be a draw.

**18...♗e4 19.♗xe4**

The point.

**19...b4**

And the reply.

**20.♗xa8 bxc3 21.♖xb8 ♖d4+**

After 21...♖c1+ 22.♗g2 cxb2 23.♖d6+ ♗e8

24.♖b8+ White has perpetual check.

**22.♖g2 ♖d2+ 23.♖h3 ♖e3+ 24.♗g2**

**♖e2+ 25.♗g3 ♖e1+**

Now Black has perpetual check.

**26.♗g2 ♖e2+ 27.♗g3**

Draw.

SI 41.15

Berczy

Neishtadt

Correspondence game 1959

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6**

**5.c4 ♗f6 6.♗c3 ♗b4 7.e5**

An interesting move, but if Black plays it right, it will yield White precious little.

**7...♗e4**

Another idea is 7...♖a5!?, but this is quite dubious in view of 8.exf6! ♗xc3+ 9.bxc3 ♖xc3+ 10.♖d2 ♖xa1 11.♗e2, and White has good compensation for the sacrifices exchange. An example is Nielsen-Arlauskas, correspondence game 1959/60, in which Black was led a merry chase: 11...♗c6 12.fxg7 ♗g8 13.♗xc6 bxc6 14.0-0 ♖xg7 15.g3 d5 16.♗a3 ♖g5 17.♖b4 ♖d8 18.exd5 cxd5 19.♗c1 a5 20.♖f4 ♗d7 21.♗h5 ♖g7 22.♖d6 ♗g8 23.♗c7, and Black resigned.

**8.♖g4 ♗xc3**

Now 8...♖a5? is just bad. See the later correspondence game Skotorenko-Belomestnikh from 1967: 9.♖xg7 ♗xc3+ 10.bxc3 ♖xc3+ 11.♗e2 ♖xa1 12.♖xh8+ ♗e7 13.♗a3+ d6 14.♗d6+ ♗d7 (after 14...♗d6, 15.♗c6+ wins: 15...♗xc6 16.exd6+, winning the queen, or 15...♗d7 16.♗d8+, and mate) 15.♗xc6 (a perfect bull's eye!) 15...♗xc6 (or 15...♗xc6 16.♖e8+, or 15...fxe6 16.♖g7+, or 15...♖a2+ 16.♗c3 ♖xf2+ 17.♗xe4, and Black has no perpetual) 16.♖d8+ ♗xc6 17.♖xd6+ ♗f5 18.♖f6+ ♗e4 19.f3+, and Black resigned.

**9.a3 ♗f8 10.bxc3**



**10...♖a5**

Very good would be 10...d6!?, at once, e.g. 11.exd6 e5 12.♗f5 g6 13.♖g3 ♗c6 14.♗h6

♗xd6 15.♗e2 f5 16.♗g5 ♗e7 17.0-0 ♗xg5 18.♖xg5 ♖c7, with good play for Black, Van der Wiel-Carlo Reigadas, zonal tournament Linares 1995.

**11.♖g3 d6! 12.exd6 ♗xd6**

The point of Black's counterplay.

**13.♖xd6**

13.♖xg7? is bad: 13...♗e5.

**13...♖xc3+ 14.d2**

This eventually leads to a draw through perpetual check more or less by force. Less good is 14.♖d1? ♖xa1 15.♗d3 ♗d7 16.♗e2 ♗c6 17.♗xc6 (or 17.♗c3 ♖c3!) 17...♗xc6 18.♗g5 ♖b2+ 19.♗d1 ♗a4+ 20.♗e1 f6 21.♖xg6+ ♗f8, and White has no good way to continue his attack and can't even claim perpetual check.

**14...♖xa1+ 15.♗e2**

Now White is threatening 16.♗b4.

**15...♖d2 16.♗c3 ♗c6 17.♗xc6 ♖b6+**

**18.♖d4 ♖xc6 19.♖xg7 ♖c5+**

Bad is 19...♗f8? in view of 20.♗b4. After the text White cannot prevent perpetual check.

**20.♗e2 ♖xc4+ 21.♗e1 ♖e4+ 22.♗e2**

**♖b1+ 23.♗d1 ♖e4+ 24.♗e2**

Draw.

SI 41.15

Karadzic

Honfi

Bajmok 1975

**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6**

**5.c4 ♗f6 6.♗c3 ♗b4 7.♗d3 ♗c6**

**8.♗xc6 dxc6 9.e5 ♖a5**

This move leads to difficult complications in which Black, in particular, has to be careful, even though the line is not downright bad for Black. After the safe 9...♗d7 10.f4 ♗c5 11.♗c2 ♖xd1+ 12.♖xd1 White is slightly better. Also interesting is 9...♗g4 10.♖xg4 (Sosonko's suggestion of 10.♗f4? may be stronger) 10...♖xd3 11.♖xg7 ♗f8, and Black has counterplay.

**10.exf6 ♗xc3+ 11.bxc3 ♖xc3+**



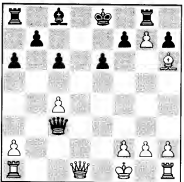
### 12...♟d2

The exchange sacrifice 12.♟d2?! is dubious; after 12...♟xa1 neither 13.fxg7 ♟xg7 14.0-0 e5 15.f4 ♟e4, nor 13.0-0 ♟f6 14.♟b2 ♟e7 15.♟xg7 ♟g8 16.♟c3 f6 is particularly convincing. 12...♟xd3 13.fxg7 ♟g8 The intermediate 13...♟e4+ is worse: 14.♟f1 ♟g8 15.♟g5! ♟xc4+ 16.♟g1 ♟d5 17.♟f6 e5 18.♟c2 ♟c6 19.♟xh7, with advantage for White, Khasin-Sergievsy, Kiev 1965.

### 14.♟h6

Or 14.♟g5 ♟c3+ 15.♟f1 ♟d7?! 16.♟b1 ♟xg7 17.♟xb7 f6 18.♟xf6! ♟xg2+ 19.♟e2 ♟e4+ 20.♟d2 c5 21.♟h5+ ♟g6 22.♟wh7 ♟f4+ 23.♟e2 ♟e4+, draw, H.Larsen-H.Rasmusen, correspondence game 1988.

### 14...♟c3+ 15.♟f1



### 15...♟xc4+!

Taking a pawn with check – obvious enough, one would say. But 15...♟f6! is probably a better idea. See the game Drygalski-Filutowski.

### 16.♟g1 ♟h4

The queen turns out to be slightly offside here. But it is doubtful whether 16...♟d5 is better: 17.♟c1!? ♟d7 18.♟d1 ♟f5 19.h4 0-0-0 20.♟h3 e5 21.♟h3d3, and White had a winning attack, Torre-Tan Lian Ann, Interzonal tournament, Manila 1976.

### 17.♟d2 f6 18.♟b1 e5?!

More stubborn is 18...♟f7!?. The idea is to move or less get to safety with ♟e8 and ♟g8.

### 19.h3 ♟f7?

Now this move is no longer good. Correct was 19...a5 in order to prevent White's next.

### 20.♟b4 ♟h5 21.g4! ♟g6

21...♟h4 is also hopeless: 22.g5 ♟h5 23.♟d6 fxg5 24.♟f8+.

### 22.♟xb7+! ♟e6 23.f4! f5 24.♟c7

Black resigned.

### SI 41.15

□ Drygalski

■ Filutowski

Correspondence game 1995

### 1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 a6

### 5.c4 ♟f6 6.♟c3 ♟b4 7.♟d3 ♟c6

### 8.♟xc6 dxc6 9.e5 ♟d4

This is one way of doing it!

### 10.exf6 ♟xc3+ 11.bxc3 ♟xc3+ 12.♟d2

### ♟xd3 13.fxg7 ♟g8 14.♟h6 ♟c3+

### 15.♟f1 ♟f6!

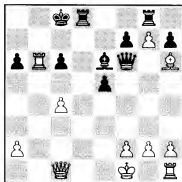
For 15...♟xc4+?!, see the game Karadzic-Honfi. The text should be stronger.

### 16.♟c1 e5 17.♟b1 ♟e6!?

After 17...♟g4?! 18.h3 ♟h5 19.♟c3 ♟d8 20.g4 ♟g6 21.♟xb7 ♟d6 22.♟g2 c5 23.♟f3 e4 24.♟b3 White had a winning attack, Oechslein-Perman, correspondence game 1986. A better option is 17...b5!?, with the in-

teresting continuation 18.cxb5 axb5 19.♟b2 ♟f5 20.h4 ♟a4 21.♟g1 ♟g4 22.♟d2 ♟e4 23.♟a3 ♟xb6 24.♟a8+ ♟e7 25.♟a7+ ♟f6 26.♟d6+ ♟xg7 27.♟xh6 ♟xh6 28.♟e3+ ♟h5 29.f3 ♟xg2+ 30.♟f1 ♟d5 31.♟xe5+ ♟h6 32.♟f4+ ♟h5 33.♟f5+ ♟h6, draw, Lonoff-S.Wolff, correspondence game 1990.

### 18.♟xb7 0-0-0 19.♟b6!



This is far stronger than 19.♟a7?! from the game Poulsen-Farago, Svendborg 1981 that is mentioned in some of the theory books: 19...♟h4! 20.♟a8+? ♟c7 21.♟xd8 ♟xd8 22.g4 ♟xg4, and White resigned.

### 19...♟d4

Another idea is 19...♟h3, when 20.♟xa6? is bad in view of 20...♟f3!, and 20.gxh3 ♟f3 21.♟g1 ♟d1+ 22.♟xd1 ♟xd1+ 23.♟g2 ♟d6 24.♟gb1 ♟g6+ 25.♟f1 ♟d3+ results in perpetual check. But with 20.♟h3!? White can keep the fight going – he may have the better chances, although things are anything but clear, of course.

### 20.♟xc6+ ♟b7 21.♟c5 ♟d8

After 21...♟d8?! White plays 22.♟e1!, with advantage, not 22.♟e2?! in view of 22...♟h4.

### 22.♟e2

Now 22.♟e1? is bad in view of 22...♟d6! 23.♟b1+ ♟a8 24.♟a5 ♟d8, and Black wins.

### 22...♟b6

But now 22...♟d6? is not good: 23.♟b2+ ♟a8 24.♟b1.

### 23.♟a3

23.♟xc5 is met by 23...♟xc4+ 24.♟e1 ♟b4+ 25.♟d2 ♟xd2 26.♟xd2 ♟b1+, with perpetual check.

23...♟xc4+ 24.♟xc4 ♟xc4 25.♟f3+ ♟b8 26.♟xf7 ♟c2+ 27.♟d2 ♟b5+ 28.♟e3 ♟b6+ 29.♟e2 ♟b5+ 30.♟e3 ♟b6+ 31.♟e2

Draw.

### SI 41.20

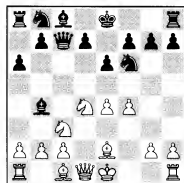
□ Janosevic

■ Jansa

Sarajevo 1966

### 1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 a6 5.♟c3 ♟c7 6.♟e2 ♟f6 7.f4!?

Interesting, albeit not entirely convincing. Normal is 7.0-0 ♟b4 8.♟d3. Janosevic himself gave the move a?!, but a few years later it was Jansa who dared to play it with white! 7...♟b4



### 8.e5!?

8...♟e4!? is probably better. In Jansa-E.Castro, Lugano Olympiad 1968, there followed 9.0-0 ♟xc3 10.bxc3 ♟xc3. After 11.♟b3 ♟c7 12.♟b2 ♟c6 13.f5 ♟e7?! 14.f6 gx f6 15.ex f6 ♟f8 16.♟h5 White had some pressure for his pawn, but his compensation was not overly clear.

**9.bxc3 ♖xc3+ 10.♖d2 ♗xa1**

After 10...♗xd2+ 11.♖d2 ♖e4 12.♖b4 White's strong bishops guarantee him good compensation. The text, although consistent, is risky.

**11.exf6 ♖c6**

After 11...gxf6 12.0-0 White also had good prospects.

**12.fxg7 ♗g8 13.c3! ♖xd4 14.cxd4 ♖b1 15.0-0 ♗xg7**

After 15...♗g6 16.f5 ♗xg7 17.♖f3 d5 18.♖a3 White has great play for the exchange.

**16.f5 ♖e4 17.♗f2!**

More obvious is 17.♖f3?, but this move is less convincing: 17...♗xf5 18.♖xb7 ♗xf1+ 19.♗xf1 ♖xb7, and Black has counterplay.

**17...d6 18.♗h6! ♗xd4 19.f6 ♗g6 20.♗xh7 ♗xf6 21.♗h8+ ♖e7 22.♖e3! ♗e5**

22...♗xe3 23.♗xf6+ or 22...♗a1+ 23.♖f1 won't save Black either.

**23.♖b6! ♖d7 24.♗d8+ ♖c6 25.♗c7+ ♖d5 26.♗c4**

Mate.

## SI 42.2

- Anand  
 Ninov

Bagua City 1987

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 a6 5.♖d3 ♖c5 6.♖b3 ♖a7 7.♖c3 ♖c6 8.♗e2 d6 9.♖e3 ♖xe3 10.♗xe3 ♖f6 11.g4!?**

White launches an immediate attack. Anand found this move, then a novelty, over the board.

**11...b5**

After 11...♖xg4 12.♗g3 ♖f6 13.♗xg7 ♗g8 14.♗h6 White will be slightly better and Black will have to aim for castling queenside with ♖d7 and ♗c7. An interesting idea is 11...h5!?: after 12.g5 ♖g4 13.♗g3! ♗xg5 14.h3 ♖g5 15.♗xg5 ♖f3+ Black would

have won a pawn, Geenen-Blees, Brussels zonal tournament 1993.

**12.0-0-0 0-0 13.g5 ♖e8**

13...♖d7 is met by the awkward 14.♖e2.

**14.f4 b4 15.♖e2**

Another possibility was 15.♖a4 to Anand after the black advance a6-a5-a4. But as Anand wrote in his notes to the game, he preferred to go for an attack.

**15...a5 16.♖bd4 ♖xd4 17.♖xd4 ♖b6**

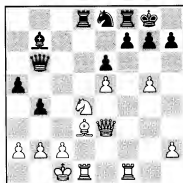
After the game 17...a4 was suggested as an improvement, but in his book *My Best Games of Chess* Anand then indicates the variation 18.♖c6 ♖c7 19.♖xb4 a3 20.b3 ♗c3 21.♗e1! ♗b2+ 22.♖d2, with good play for White.

**18.e5! ♖b7 19.♗h1 dxe5**

19...a4 is followed by 20.f5! dxe5 (20...exf5 is met very strongly by 21.e6) 21.fxe6! exd4 22.♗h3 g6 (22...f5 23.♗xf5 gives White a winning attack) 23.exf7+ ♗xf7 24.♗xf7 ♖xf7 25.♗xh7+, and Black loses his queen. After 19...♗d8 White's reply 20.f5! is also strong. Thus Anand.

**20.fxex5 ♖d8?**

Too careless... Now White has an effective combination. The only move was 20...g6, after which White continues 21.♖f5 ♗xe3+ 22.♖xe3, and he has a positional advantage.

**21.♖xh7+! ♖xh7 22.g6+ ♖g8**

Or 22...♗xg6 23.♖d3+ f5 24.fxg6+ c.p. 23.♗h3 ♖f6

Or 23...fxg6 24.♗xf8+ ♖xf8 25.♖xe6+.

**24.exf6 fxg6 25.fxg7**

Black resigned in view of 25...♖xg7 26.♖xe6+ ♖g8 27.♗xf8+ ♗f8 28.♖x8 ♖xf8 29.♗h8+.

## SI 42.2

- Kengis  
 Nevednichy

Moscow 1979

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 a6 5.♖d3 ♖c5 6.♖b3 ♖a7 7.♗e2 ♖c6 8.♖e3 ♖xe3**

After 8...♖f6 9.♖c3 d6 10.0-0 ♖xe3+ the same position as in the game arises, but Black can also try 8...♖ge7. Nunn and Gallagher, in their *Beating the Sicilian 3*, have this to say about it: "Against this plan we are recommending that White castle short, not getting involved in the habitual pawn storming competition as his attack won't have as much momentum without a knight on f6 for the g-pawn to sink its teeth into". This sounds plausible enough. An example is Kindermann-Zso.Polgar, Münster 1994: 9.♖c3 ♗c7 10.f4 d6 11.♗xa7 ♗xa7 12.0-0 b5 13.♗ae1 b4 14.♖d1 0-0 15.♖e3 d5 16.e5 f5 17.exf6 e.p. ♗xf6 18.♗h5 g6 19.♗g5, with a positional advantage for White.

**9.♗xe3 ♖f6 10.♖c3 d6 11.0-0-0 10-12.f4 ♗c7 13.g4!**

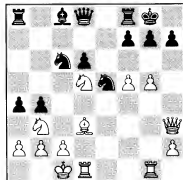
White goes on the offensive!

**13...b5**

Taking the pawn looks very dangerous: 13...♖xg4 14.♗g3 ♖f6 15.♗h1 e8 16.f5 or 16.♗h4, and White should have good compensation for his pawn.

**14.g5 ♖d7 15.f5! b4 16.♖e2 a5 17.♗h3!**

Attacking e6, and already keeping an eye on h7 (and h6!).  
**17...exf5 18.exf5 ♖de5 19.♖f4 a4 20.♖d5 ♖d8 21.♗hg1**

**21...♖xd3+?**

This is the crucial point of the game. The text robs White of the potentially dangerous bishop, but it does activate the white rook. After 21...axb3 White would have been up against stiffer resistance. The following variation comes from Nunn and Gallagher's book: 22.♖f6+! gxf6 23.♗h6! ♖g6 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.♗xg6 ♗a7 26.gxf6 hxg6 27.♗xg6+ ♖f7, and now 28.♖e1! ♖e2 29.♗g7+ ♖e6 30.♗a7 bxa2 31.♗h3+ ♖d5 32.♗h3+ ♖c6 33.♗xa2, leaves White with a raging attack.

**22.♖xd3 ♖e5 23.♖f6+! gxf6 24.♗h6!**

After 24.gxf6+? ♖g6 White has nothing.

**24...♖xd3+**

Now 24...♖g6 loses in view of 25.♗h3 ♗e8 26.fxg6 fxg6 27.♗xh7+ ♖f8 28.♗h8+, and 24...♖h8 fails to 25.♗h3 ♖xf5 26.g4!.

**25.♖b1!**

After 25.cxd3? ♖h8 the white attack falters.

**25...fxg5**

His only hope. After 25...♖h8 White would have played 26.g6! fxg6 27.fxg6, and he is winning.

**26.f6 ♗xf6 27.♗xh6**

The rest is silence. White wins easily.

**27...g4 28.♗g5+ ♖h8 29.♗f6+ ♖g8 30.♖d4! ♖e5 31.h3 h5 32.♗g5+ ♖g6 33.♗h5 gxh3 34.♖d5 ♖e6 35.♖xe6 h2 36.♗xg6+ ♖c6 37.♗g5+ ♖c6 38.♗g6+ ♖c6 39.♗g6+ ♖c6 40.♗g6+ ♖c6 41.♗g6+ ♖c6 42.♗g6+ ♖c6 43.♗g6+ ♖c6 44.♗g6+ ♖c6 45.♗g6+ ♖c6 46.♗g6+ ♖c6 47.♗g6+ ♖c6 48.♗g6+ ♖c6 49.♗g6+ ♖c6 50.♗g6+ ♖c6 51.♗g6+ ♖c6 52.♗g6+ ♖c6 53.♗g6+ ♖c6 54.♗g6+ ♖c6 55.♗g6+ ♖c6 56.♗g6+ ♖c6 57.♗g6+ ♖c6 58.♗g6+ ♖c6 59.♗g6+ ♖c6 60.♗g6+ ♖c6 61.♗g6+ ♖c6 62.♗g6+ ♖c6 63.♗g6+ ♖c6 64.♗g6+ ♖c6 65.♗g6+ ♖c6 66.♗g6+ ♖c6 67.♗g6+ ♖c6 68.♗g6+ ♖c6 69.♗g6+ ♖c6 70.♗g6+ ♖c6 71.♗g6+ ♖c6 72.♗g6+ ♖c6 73.♗g6+ ♖c6 74.♗g6+ ♖c6 75.♗g6+ ♖c6 76.♗g6+ ♖c6 77.♗g6+ ♖c6 78.♗g6+ ♖c6 79.♗g6+ ♖c6 80.♗g6+ ♖c6 81.♗g6+ ♖c6 82.♗g6+ ♖c6 83.♗g6+ ♖c6 84.♗g6+ ♖c6 85.♗g6+ ♖c6 86.♗g6+ ♖c6 87.♗g6+ ♖c6 88.♗g6+ ♖c6 89.♗g6+ ♖c6 90.♗g6+ ♖c6 91.♗g6+ ♖c6 92.♗g6+ ♖c6 93.♗g6+ ♖c6 94.♗g6+ ♖c6 95.♗g6+ ♖c6 96.♗g6+ ♖c6 97.♗g6+ ♖c6 98.♗g6+ ♖c6 99.♗g6+ ♖c6 100.♗g6+ ♖c6**

SI 42.2

□ Zuidema

■ Ivkov

Beigrade 1964

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6  
5.♗d3 ♗c6 5.♗c5 ♗b3 ♖a7 7.0-0 ♗c6  
8.♖h1?

White wants to play f4, but 8.♖c2, followed by ♗e3, is a better idea, as it is important to eliminate ♖a7. See the games Anand-Ninov and Kengis-Sveinichy.

8...♗f6 9.f4 h5!

With the white king on h1, a lightning attack is on the cards.

10.a4?

A costly waste of time! The correct move is 10.♗c3, when after 10...♗g4 11.♖f3 ♖h4 12.h3 g5 White has the saving 13.♗d1.

10...♗g4 11.♖f3 ♖h4 12.h3



12...g5! 13.♗d2

The point of Black's previous move is 13.fxg5 ♗f2+ 14.♖h2 ♗e5, followed by 15...♗eg4+. After the text the black g-pawn penetrates further into the white position. White's position is hopeless

13...♗f2+ 14.♖h2 g4 15.♖g3 ♖xg3+

White resigned, as he is facing the forced continuation 16.♖xg3 h4+ 17.♖h2 g3+ 18.♖g1 ♗xd3+.

SI 42.3

□ Matulovic

■ Hamann

Kislovodsk 1966

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6  
5.♗d3 ♗c6 6.♗xc6 bxc6

After 6...dxc6 White has the slightly more pleasant play, e.g. 7.♗c3 e5 8.♗d2 ♗d6 9.a4 ♗f6 10.♗c4, Ghinda-Popov, Luzern Olympiad 1982.

7.0-0 d5

Black has a majority in the centre, but you couldn't say for sure that this is an advantage here.

Swapping on e4 is almost never a good idea here, as this turns the c6 pawn into a weak isolated pawn. Besides, Black's slight lag in development also causes him problems.

8.♖e2

Another good move is 8.c4. In Fischer-Petrosian, 7th match game Buenos Aires 1971, there followed 8...♗f6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.exd5 exd5? 11.♗c3 ♗e7 12.♖a4 ♖d7?! (after 12...♗d7 White plays 13.♖c2 or 13.♖d4) 13.♖e1 ♖xa4 14.♗xa4 ♗c6 15.♗e3, with a positional advantage for White.

8...♗f6 9.♗g5 ♗e7 10.♗d2 0-0 11.♖ae1 ♖e8 12.♖h1 ♖b7 13.f4 c5?

This is refuted. Correct was 13...♗d7, quickly followed by ...♗f8.

14.e5 ♗d7 15.♖xh7+! ♖xh7 16.♖h5+ ♖g8 17.♖e3! f5

17...f6 is not enough either: 18.♖h3, and now 18...a5 19.♗f3 ♖a6 20.♗xf6 ♗xf6 21.exf6 ♗xf6 22.♗e5, or 18...♗f8 19.♗f3 ♖c7 20.exf6 ♗xf6 21.♖h8+ ♖f7 22.♗e5+ ♖e7 23.♖xg7+. The decisive intervention always comes from the d2 knight.

The fact that Black cannot take on g5 (as this opens the f-file) plays an important part in these lines.

18.♖h3 ♗f8 19.♗f3

Black resigned.

SI 42.14

□ Stein, Leonid

■ Portisch

Saltsjöbaden 1962

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6  
5.♗d3 ♗f6 6.0-0 ♖c7 7.f2d2 ♗c6  
8.♗xc6 bxc6 9.f4 ♗c5+?!

Stein has called this move an imaginary gain of tempo. Simply 9...♗e7 is better. 9...d5 10.e5 ♗d7 11.c3 ♗c5 12.♗c2 ♗c7 has also been recommended, but instead of 10.e5 White has a stronger option in 10.♖e2!

10.♖h1 d6 11.♗f3 e5

Black is virtually forced to play this, because White is otherwise forced to play 12.e5, e.g. 11...0-0? 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 ♗d5 14.♖xh7+!

12.fxe5 dxe5 13.♖h4 0-0 14.♗f5 ♗e6

Taking the knight won't solve Black's problems either: 14...♗xf5 15.♖xf5 ♗e8 16.♖g4, and White has good attacking chances.

15.♖e2 a5 16.♗c4 ♖h8 17.♗g5 ♗d7?! According to Stein, Black should have played 17...♗g8 here. This leaves him with a passive position, but he may be able to defend.

18.♖ad1 ♗b6?

This is refuted in surprising fashion. After

18...♗xf5 19.♖xf5 ♗b6 Black is worse, but he can still fight.



19.♗xg7! ♗xc4

After 19...♖xg7 White wins with 20.♗f6+ ♖g6 21.♖d3.

20.♗f6!

The beautiful point of the sacrifice.

20...♗e7

After 20...♗e2 Black is mated in two moves: 21.♗f5+ ♖g8 22.♗h6, while 20...♗d7 is met by 21.♖xg7.

21.♖f3

Black resigned, as after 21...♖g8 the decisive 22.♗h5 wins.

## Four Knights and Pin Variation

Black plays 2...e6 and 4...f6

SI 34.2

- Nunn  
 Kouatly

Cannes 1992

1.e4 c5 2.f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
♟f6 5.♟c3 ♟c6 6.♟e2  
6.♟db5 or 6.♟xc6 is more common in this  
Four Knights variation.  
6...♟b4 7.0-0!

The aim of the previous move, a pawn sacrifice.  
The official theory has grave doubts about this  
idea, but White will certainly get chances.  
7...♟xc3 8.bxc3 ♟xe4 9.♟d3



9...d5

Taking the second pawn with 9...♟xc3 looks  
very risky, yet Black could possibly get away  
with it: 10.♟g4 0-0 11.♟xc6 dxc6 12.♟b2  
(or 12.♟h6 ♟f6 13.♟g5 ♟e5 14.♟ae1 ♟5

15.♟c4 ♟e4, with unclear play) 12...e5!  
13.♟xh7+ ♟xh7 14.♟h5+ ♟g8 15.♟xe5  
♟f6, with an equal endgame.

10.♟a3 ♟a5 11.♟c1 ♟xd4

After 11...♟xc3 12.♟b3 ♟c7 13.♟e3 ♟6  
14.♟ae1 ♟f7 15.♟c5 White has a strong initi-  
ative for his two pawns, Bielczyk-Tisdall,  
Gausdal 1983.

12.cxd4 b6

After 12...♟d7 13.♟b1 ♟c6 14.♟b4 ♟c7  
15.♟a3 White also had compensation for his  
pawn, Geller-Khasin, Soviet championship,  
Moscow 1961.

13.♟b1

13.c4!? is also possible, when 13...♟a6? is  
impossible in view of 14.cxd5.



13...♟a6?!

Black should have tried to force a draw through  
repetition with 13...♟d2! 14.♟b2 ♟c3, for  
now things are going to go badly wrong for him.

14.♟e1! 0-0-0

14...♟xd3? 15.cxd3 ♟c3 16.♟b4 costs Black a  
piece, while 14...♟c8? 15.♟b4 ♟a4  
16.♟xe4 dxe4 17.♟g5 also loses.

15.♟b4 ♟a4 16.c4 ♟b7 17.♟c2 ♟c6

After 17...♟xa2? 18.cxd5 exd5 19.♟xe4!  
dxe4 20.♟xe4+ White has a winning attack.

18.c5 bxc5?

Black should at the very least have kept the  
position closed with 18...b5, even though  
White is very good after 19.♟a3.

19.♟a5+ ♟c8?

19...♟a8 was relatively Black's best choice.

20.♟a3! cxd4 21.♟xe4

Black resigned.

SI 34.4

- Baer  
 Engelhardt

Correspondence game 1992

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
♟f6 5.♟c3 e6 6.♟db5 d6

The traditional continuation is 6...♟b4, but  
these days almost everyone plays 6...d6 in or-  
der to transpose to the Sveshnikov after 7.♟f4  
e5. Because the bishop is hanging, you'd say  
that White has no other choice besides 8.♟g5,  
but this is not the case.

7.♟f4 e5 8.♟d5!  
A speculative idea.

8...♟xd5

8...exf4 9.♟bc7+ ♟d7 10.♟xa8 ♟xd5 11.exd5  
♟e5 leads to a position that is hard to assess.

9.exd5 exf4

After 9...♟e7 White can play 10.♟xe5!?  
dxe5 11.d6, with unclear complications. For  
9...♟b8, see the game Kuznetsov-Kozirev.

10.dxc6 bxc6 11.♟f3 d5

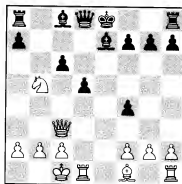
Other moves here are 11...♟b6!? and  
11...♟b7!?

12.0-0-0 ♟e7

Bad is 12...cxb5? in view of 13.♟xd5 ♟d7  
14.♟xb5, but 12...♟d7 is worth looking at. A

possible continuation is 13.♟xf4 cxb5  
14.♟xd5 a6 15.♟c4!? bxc4 16.♟hd1, with  
very unclear play; Black is two pieces up, but  
he is badly caught.

13.♟c3!



13...cxb5?!

Now Black will find himself in serious trouble.  
Stronger is 13...0-0!? 14.♟xc6 e6 15.♟e7  
♟8 16.♟xe6 ♟xc6 17.♟xd8 ♟xd8 18.♟e2,  
and the endgame is slightly better for White.

14.♟xg7 ♟f6

14...♟f8 is met by 15.♟xb5+ ♟d7 16.♟xd5.

15.♟xb5+!

White's strongest option. Less clear is  
15.♟e1+ ♟d7 16.♟xf7+ ♟c6, and the black  
king finds a safe bolthole on the queenside.

15...♟e7 16.♟he1+ e6 17.♟xe6+!

♟xe6 18.♟e1+ ♟d6 19.♟xf7 ♟c5

Or 19...♟f8 20.♟e6+ ♟c5 21.♟b7?!, with  
strong threats.

20.♟e6 ♟e7

After 20...♟xb5 the white player has indica-  
ted the following winning line: 21.♟b7+  
♟b6 22.♟xd5+ ♟a6 23.♟c4+ ♟a5 (or  
23...♟b7 24.♟xb6+ axb6 25.♟f7+) 24.b4+  
♟a4 25.♟b3+ ♟b5 26.a4+ ♟a6 27.♟c4+.  
21.♟xe7 ♟f8 22.♟e6 ♟b6 23.b4+!  
♟xb4

Or 23...cxb5 24.♟xd5+.

24.♟c6 ♟c5

Or 24...♟ab8 25.♟xd5.

25. ♖e1+ ♘a3 26. ♖d2 ♖fb8 27. ♖xh7  
And Black resigned. White plays 28. ♖h3+.

SI 34.4

- Kuznetsov  
 Kozirev

Chellabinsk 1993

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 e6 6.♗db5 d6 7.♗f4 e5  
8.♗d5!?

♗xd5 9.exd5 ♗b8  
This is a solid defence, but White won't give up and continues on his merry sacrificing way.

10.♗xe5!  
The quiet 10.♗e3 is also playable.

10...dxe5  
The intermediate move 10...a6? is bad in view of 11.♖e2!  
11.d6 ♗a6

With 11...♗xd6 12.♖xd6 ♖xd6 13.♗xd6+ ♗e7 Black can return the piece, but then the endgame after 14.♗xc8+ ♖xc8 15.♗d3 is slightly better for White. Unclear is 11...♗c6 12.♗c7+ ♗d7 13.♗xa8 ♗xd6 14.♗c4.

12.♖d5 ♖b6  
The game Kuznetsov-Golakov, Russia 1992, saw 12...♗e6 13.♖xb7 ♖c8 14.♖xa6 ♖xa6 15.♗c7+ ♗d7 16.♗xa6 ♗xd6 17.♗xb5+ ♗e7 18.0-0-0, with advantage for White. After 12...♖f6 13.0-0-0 White should have compensation for the sacrificed piece.

13.♖xe5+ ♗e6 14.d7+  
After 14.0-0-0? 0-0-0 Black has weathered the worst of the storm.

14...♗xd7 15.0-0-0+ ♗c8  
15...♗e8 is followed by 16.♗c4 ♖c8 17.♗d6! ♗xd6 18.♗xd6+ ♗e7 19.♗f5+, with advantage for White.

16.♗d6!  
According to the white player, 16.♗c4!? ♗c5 17.♗d6! is also possible. The position is extremely complicated.

16...♖c5  
Or 16...♗d6 17.♗xd6+ ♖b8 18.♗f7+ ♖c7

19.♖xe6 ♖c8 20.c3, with unclear play.  
17.♖xe6 ♖xe6 18.♖xe6+ ♖b8  
Certainly not 18...♗d8? 19.♗e2.

19.♖e8+ ♖c8 20.♖e5+ ♗c7 21.♗xc7  
♖xc7 22.♖e8+ ♖c8 23.♖e5+ ♖c7

Black resigns himself to a draw. He could have continued the fight with 23...♗d6!?

24.♖xd6+ ♖c7, although the endgame after 25.♖xc7+ ♖c7 26.♗d3 h6 would offer approximately equal chances.

And a draw was agreed.

SI 34.4

- Xu Yuhua  
 Cramling

Shenyang 2000

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 ♘c6 6.♗db5 ♗c5!?

An early deviation that is especially popular in Sweden, where Rolf Martens has dubbed it the Cobra.

7.♗f4  
White immediately draws a bead on square d6. The attempt to secure square d6 by means of 7.♗e3?! ♗xc3 8.♗d6+ ♗e7 9.fxe3 failed after 9...♖c7 in Wells-Hall, German Bundesliga 1999/00. After 10.♗e5 Black does not play 10...♖b8? 11.e5 ♗xe5 12.♖d4 ♗c6 13.♖c5 b6 14.♖a3, and White wins, but 10...♖b6 11.♖d2 a6, and the white pieces are rebuffed.

After 7.♗d6+ ♗e7 8.♗f4 Black has a choice between 8...♖b6 (9.♗e4 ♗xf2+ 10.♗e2 ♗d4 yields White little) and 8...e5 9.♗f5+ ♗f8.

7...0-0  
This is part and parcel of Black's plan. 7...e5! 8.♗e3 ♗xc3 9.♗d6+ ♗f8 10.fxe3 is dangerous now, because not only d6 but now also d5 has been irreparably weakened. This was borne out in Groszpetor-Orso, Berlin 1996: 10...♗e8 11.♗xe8 ♗xe8 12.♗c4 ♖h4+ 13.g3 ♖h6 14.0-0.

8.e5  
The youthful Chinese prodigy tackles things

energetically. Occupying d6 at once causes Black no problems: 8.♗d6 ♖b6! 9.♗xc5 (9.♗xf8? ♗xf2+ 10.♗d2 ♖c5 mate!) 9...♖xc5 10.♗d6 ♖b6 11.♖c7 ♖c5 12.♗d6 ♖b6 1/2-1/2 Borris-Hall, German Bundesliga 1999/00.

People were aware as early as the '60s that the best reply to 8.♗c7 ♖e7 9.♗d6 ♗xd6 10.♗xd6 is to be found in 10...♗e8! 11.♖xe7 ♗xe7 12.0-0-0 f5, Tringov-Bilek, Amsterdam 1964. White is only marginally better.

8...♗e8  
Black can also go for 8...a6 9.♗d6 ♗e8 10.♗e4 ♗xd6 11.exd6 ♗a7 12.♖d2 b5 13.♗d3 f5, as in Roser-Janssen, Grony Cup, Glenalmond 1996.

9.♗e4 ♗e7 10.♗d3  
A better way to maintain the pressure is 10.c3 f6 (or 10...a6 11.♗b6 f6 12.exf6 ♗xf6 13.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 14.♗g3♯) 11.exf6 ♗xf6 12.♗d6.

10...a6  
10...f6 11.exf6 ♗xf6 is a lot simpler.

11.♖h5!  
A speculative sortie inspired by the fact that Black is comfortable after 11.♗b6 ♖a5+ 12.♗c1 ♗xe5 13.♖h5 f5 14.♗xe8 g6! or 11.♗bc3 ♖c7 12.♖h5 g6 13.♖h6 ♗xe5.

11...g6  
I don't see anything wrong with 11...axb5 12.♗f6+ ♗xf6 13.exf6 ♗b4+ 14.c3 g6 15.♖h6 ♗xf6.

12.♖h6 axb5 13.h4 f5! 14.h5 g5  
15.♗xg5 ♗xg5 16.♗xg5 ♖a5+

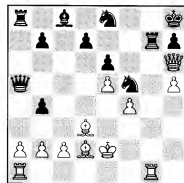
The simplest road to an advantage was 16...♖c7! 17.f4 ♗xe5 18.fxe5 ♖xe5+ 19.♗d2 ♖xb2 20.♗e3 ♗a4.

17.♗d2 b4 18.f4 ♗f7?!  
18...♖d5! 19.♗g1 ♗f7 20.g4 ♗g7 ingenious-ly combines attack and defence.

19.g4 ♗e7 20.♗g1 ♗g7 21.♗e2 ♖h8?  
Due to time-trouble, the Swedish grandmaster overlooks 21...fxg4! 22.♗xg4 ♗xg4 23.♖h7+ ♗f8. After 24.g6 ♖h5+ 25.f5 ♗f3 ♗xg6 26.hxg6 ♖d5+ 27.♗e2 ♖e4+ Black wins.

22.gxf5 ♗xf5?

Although Black's defensive line looks solid enough, White's reply quickly disabuses her of this notion. 22...♗g8 23.♗xg7 ♗xh6 24.♗e7 ♖d8 25.f6 ♗f5 26.♗xb4 was her final chance.



23.♗xg7!!

This is the queen sacrifice Xu Yuhua had been aiming for.

23...♗xh6  
After 23...♗exg7 24.♖f6 the black cavalry is reduced to watching passively as their king is mated.

24.♖xh7+ ♗g8 25.♗g1+ ♗f8 26.♖xh6  
♗e7 27.♖h8! d6 28.h6 ♗d7

The development of the black queenside comes too late.

29.h7 dxe5 30.♖hg8 e4 31.h8 ♖xd3+  
32.cxd3 ♖c3 33.♖h6 ♖f5 34.♗g5

Black resigned.

SI 34.4

- Kapengut  
 Begun

Soviet Union 1985

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4  
♗f6 5.♗c3 ♘c6 6.♗db5 ♗b4

The old main line is rarely played these days.

7.♗f4  
This leads to complicated play. For 7.a3 ♗xc3+ 8.♗xc3, see the game Shirov-Grischuk.

### 7...♙e4 8.♖f3!

Winning the rook on a8 is very reckless: 8.♙c7+ ♖f8 9.♗xa8?! ♖f6! 10.♖f3 ♙xc3 11.♙d2? ♙d4 12.♖d3 ♖e5+ 13.♙c3 ♙a4+ 14.♙cxb2, and White resigned, Reggio-Tarrasch, Monte Carlo 1902.

### 8...d5!

After 8...♙c3?! 9.bxc3 ♙a5 10.♙d6+ ♖f8 11.0-0-0 White has good prospects.

### 9.♙c7+ ♖f8

The king is probably safer here than on e7. After 9...♖e7?! 10.0-0-0 ♙xc3 11.bxc3 g5 12.♙d3 f5 13.♙c4?! White has dangerous attacking chances, e.g. 13...♖f7 14.♙xd5 ♖g7 15.♙c7 ♖e7 16.♖he1, Gorelov-Timoshchenko, Moscow 1985.

### 10.0-0-0 ♙xc3

The alternative is 10...♙xc3 11.bxc3 ♖b8 (or 11...g5 12.♖xe4 ♖xc7 13.♙xc7 dxe4 14.h4, with a slight advantage for White; or 11...e5 12.♙xd5 ♙g5 13.♙xg5 ♖xg5+ 14.♖b1, with a difficult position that is probably not bad for White) 12.♙xd5 exd5 13.♖xe4 dxe4 14.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 15.♙xb8 a6 16.♙e2, with slightly better play for White.

### 11.bxc3 ♙a3+ 12.♖b1 e5

12...♖b8 is strongly met by 13.♙b5.

### 13.♙xa8 exf4



### 14.♖xd5!

Taking with the rook is incorrect: 14.♖xd5? ♖e7 15.♙c4 ♙e6 16.♖e1 g5 17.♖h5 h6

18.♖d3 ♖g7, with a winning position for Black, Chekhover-Romanovsky, Leningrad 1926.

### 14...♖e7

After 14...♖e7 15.♙c7 ♖xc3 16.♖b3 White is better. Thus an old analysis by Ravinsky.

### 15.♖b3 ♙d6 16.♙c4 g6 17.♙xf7!?

An interesting move. However, it is probably not stronger than 17.♖he1, after which 17...♙e5! 18.g3 f3 19.♙d5 ♖g7 20.♙xf3 leads to an unclear position, according to Kapengut.

### 17...♖g7

And not 17...♖xf7? 18.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 19.♙xd6, with advantage for White.

### 18.♖he1 ♙e5?

Black slips up. Correct was 18...♙e5! 19.g3 f3 20.♖h5 ♖xf7 21.♙xd6 ♖xd6 22.♙xe5, with unclear play, Kapengut.

### 19.♙d5! ♙f5 20.♖b5

Threatening 21.♙xc6 bxc6 22.♖xe5.

### 20...♙e8 21.g3 g5

After 21...fxg3 White plays 22.f4.

### 22.h4 a6

Black is lost, also after 22...h6 23.hxg5 hxg5 24.gxf4 gxf4 25.♖g1+.

### 23.♖b3 fxg3 24.fxg3 ♙g4 25.♖d3

♙xa8 26.♙xc6 bxc6 27.♙xe5! ♖xe5

### 28.♖b7+ ♖g6 29.♖xa8

Black resigned.

### Si 34.4

### □ Shirov

### ■ Grischuk

Linares 2001

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 ♙c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♙f6 5.♙c3 e6 6.♙db5 ♙b4 7.a3 ♙xc3+ 8.♙xc3 d5 9.♙d3

Here, according to the books, 9.exd5 exd5 10.♙d3 0-0 11.0-0 gives White slightly more pleasant play, although his advantage doesn't amount to much. Hence the text.

### 9...d4

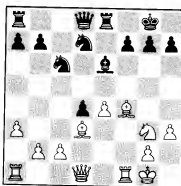
Black can safely play 9...dxc4 10.♙xe4 ♙xe4 11.♙xe4 ♖xd1+ 12.♖xd1 ♙d7 or 9...♙e5 10.♙b5+ ♙d7 11.♙xd7+ ♖xd7 12.♙e5 ♙xd5 here, and in both cases he has no great problems.

### 10.♙e2 e5 11.0-0 0-0 12.h3 ♖e8 13.♙g3 ♙e6?!

13...♙d7 is a better idea, when 14.f4 is met by 14...exf4 15.♙xf4 ♙de5 16.♖h5 f6, with quite a playable position for Black, Ponomarev-Kortchnoi, Donetsk 2001.

### 14.f4 exf4 15.♙xf4 ♙d7?!

According to Shirov, Black could have played 15...h6 here.



### 16.♖h5! g6

Now 16...f6? won't work in view of 17.e5, and 16...♙f8 is met by 17.e5 ♙g6 18.♙e4, with advantage for White.

### 17.♖h6 ♖f6

Other possibilities won't really do either. Shirov gives 17...f6 18.e5! ♙xe5 19.♙h5! ♖e7 20.♙xe5 fxe5 21.♙xg6 hxg6 22.♖xg6+ ♖h8 23.♙f6 ♙xf6 24.♖xf6 ♖h7 25.♖g5 ♖g8 26.♖xe5, winning, and 17...♙ce5 18.♙f5! ♙xf5 19.exf5 ♙xd3 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.♙g5, with advantage for White.

### 18.♙g5 ♖g7 19.♖h4 ♙ce5

19...h5 can be met strongly by 20.♙e2.

### 20.♙h6 ♖h8 21.♙f5! ♙f5

21...gxh5 22.exf5 is hopeless, of course.

### 22.exf5 ♙xd3 23.cxd3 ♖e5

White was threatening 24.f6.

### 24.♖f4!

Now the white attack quickly strikes home.

### 24...♙c5 25.♖af1 ♙xd3 26.fxg6 fxg6

After 26...♙xf4 White plays 27.gx7+ ♖xf7+

28.♖xf4+, and wins.

### 27.♖f7 ♙c5 28.♖g7+ ♖h8 29.♖ff7 ♙e6

30.♙xg6 d3 31.♖g4 ♖g8 32.♖h3+ ♖f7

Black resigned.

### SI 34.5

### □ Petrovic

### ■ Chlovich

Pula 1990

1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♙f6 5.♙c3 ♙c6 6.♙xc6

If White doesn't feel like transposing to the Sveshnikov, this is the best way to try for an opening advantage.

### 6...bxc6 7.e5 ♙d5 8.♙xd5?!

This causes Black few problems. For the better move 8.♙e4, see the next three games.

### 8...cxd5 9.♙d3 ♖c7 10.♖e2

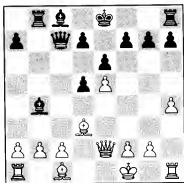
After 10.f4 ♙c5 Black has good play. After 10.♙f4, 10...♖b8 is awkward, as 11.♖b7? will cost White a pawn: 11...♖xb2! 12.♖xb2 ♖c3+ 13.♖e2 ♖xb2, Marshall-Mieses, Monte Carlo 1903. So White should go 11.♖c1, when 11...d6 12.exd6 ♙xd6 13.♙xd6 ♖xd6 yields Black good play.

### 10...♙b4+! 11.♖f1

11.c3? runs into 11...♙xc3+, of course.

### 11...♖b8 12.h4?

In order to deploy the rook with 13.♖h3. But now Black has an amusing trick. White's position, by the way, is already doubtful. See, for example, 12.♙f4 ♙c5 13.b3 0-0 14.h4 f6 15.♖h5 f5 16.♖e2 ♖b4! 17.c4 (or 17.♙d2 ♖e4) 18.♙xe4 fxe4, with compensation for the exchange) 17...dxe4 18.♙xc4 ♙a6, with good play for Black, Shabanov-Filippov, Elista 1996.



### 12...c3! 13.f4

Taking the bishop is no better: 13.bxc3 ♖xc3 14.♖g4 0-0 15.♔b2 (15.♗e2 ♗xa1 16.♔h6 doesn't yield anything either: 16...♗xe5+) 15...♗xb2 16.♞h3 ♗xe5, with a winning position for Black, Rigo-Horvath, Budapest 1980.

### 13...♗xb2

Black has won a pawn in a superior position. The rest is silence.

14.♗xb2 ♗xb2 15.♞h3 ♗b4 16.♖f3 ♗b6 17.♗e2 ♗a6 18.♞f1 ♗e4+ 19.♗d2 ♗xd3 20.cxd3 ♗b2+ 21.♗d1 ♗b1+ 22.♗d2 ♗xa2+ 23.♗c3 ♗a4

White resigned.

### SI 34.6

- Movsesian
- Stocek

Czech Republic 2001

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗c6 5.♗c3 ♗f6 6.♗xc6 bxc6 7.e5 ♗d5 8.♗e4 ♗a6?!

This is a rather dubious move. For 8...f5, see Bukal-Stein, and for 8...♗a5+, Chandler-Nunn. A much played continuation is 8...♗c7 9.f4 ♗b6, e.g. 10.c4 ♗b4+ 11.♗e2 f5 12.♗f2 ♗c5 13.♗d3 ♗c3 14.♗b3 ♗xf1 15.♗xb6 ♗xb6 16.♗xf1 ♗a6, with approximately equal

play. The latest vogue is 8...♗b7 9.♗e2 c5 10.0-0 ♗c7 11.♗d6+ ♗xd6 12.exd6 ♗c6, made fashionable by Peter Leko.

### 9.c4

9.♗xa6 ♗a5+ 10.♗d2 ♗xa6 leads to an roughly equal position.

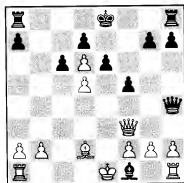
### 9...♗b4+ 10.♗d2 ♗h4 11.♖f3!

Weaker is 11.g4? ♗e3! 12.♗a4 ♗xd2+ 13.♗xd2 ♗xg4 14.♗xa6 ♗xe5 15.♗c3 ♗xf2+ 16.♗e2 ♗b8, and Black had a strong attack, Judit Polgar-San Segundo, Madrid 1995. After 11.♗c2?! Black also has the strong 11...♗e3.

### 11...f5

The exchange 11...♗xd2+ 12.♗xd2 is good for White due to the weakness of square f6.

### 12.♗d6+ ♗xd6 13.cxd5 ♗xf1 14.exd6



### 14...♗b5?!

Earlier games had shown that 14...♗c4 is good for White, e.g. 15.dxc6 ♗d5 16.♗f4 ♗xf4 17.cxd7+ ♗xd7 18.♗xf4, but in view of the opposite-coloured bishops Black probably doesn't need to despair. The text, however, is not a substantial improvement on Black's play.

### 15.dxe6 0-0

15...dxe6 is met by 16.a4 ♗xa4 17.f4 ♗b5 18.d7+, with an attack. Now the opposite-coloured bishops are to White's advantage!

### 16.exd7 ♗ad8 17.0-0 ♗c4+

Or 17...♗xd7 18.♗f4, with advantage for White.

### 18.♗c3 ♗xa2 19.♞he1 ♗xd7 20.♗e7 ♗fd8 21.♗de1 ♗a1+ 22.♗c2 ♗a2?

This loses. No better was 22...♗a4+, as Black is finished after 23.b3 ♗xb3+ (23...♗a2+ 24.♗b2) 24.♗xb3 ♗b8+ 25.♗b4. But 22...♗a4+ 23.b3 ♗g4 was certainly worth a try, according to an editorial comment in Informator 81.

### 23.♗e8+ ♗xe8 24.♗xe8+ ♗f7 25.♗h5+ g6 26.♗e7+ ♗f8

After 26...♗xe7 27.♗xh7+ Black is also finished.

### 27.♗h6+

Black resigned.

### SI 34.6

- Chandler
- Nunn

London 1998

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♗xc6 bxc6 7.e5 ♗d5 8.♗e4 ♗a5+ 9.c3 ♗a6

A playable alternative is 9...f5, e.g. 10.exf6 e.p. ♗xf6 11.♗d6+ (or 11.♗xf6+ gxf6 12.♗e2 ♗a6 13.♗xa6 ♗xa6 14.♗h5+ ♗e7 15.♗c3 d6, with approximate equality, Poletaev-O.Junge, correspondence game 1958) 11...♗xd6 12.♗xd6 ♗a6 13.♗xa6 ♗xa6 14.♗f4 ♗f7 15.♗d2 d5, with a roughly equal position, Nijboer-Ankerst, Leeuwarden 1993.

### 10.♗d3 f5?!

More accurate is 10...♗e7 11.0-0 ♗xd3 12.♗xd3, and only now 12...f5; after 13.♗g5 ♗b6 14.♗e1 h6 15.♗f3 ♗b5 the position is approximately equal, Kovalev-Ikonnikov, Schwäbisch Gmünd 1994.

### 11.exf6 e.p. ♗xf6 12.b4! ♗b6

12...♗e5? is refuted by 13.f4.

### 13.♗e3

An important gain of tempo!

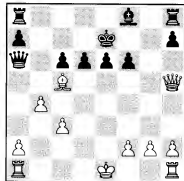
### 13...♗b7 14.♗xf6+ gxf6 15.♗h5+ ♗e7

This is forced, as 15...♗d8 16.♗a5+ costs Black a bishop!

### 16.♗c5+ d6?

This is refuted. Black should have tried 16...♗d8: White wins a pawn after 17.♗xa6 (maybe 17.♗f7!?! is stronger) 17...♗xa6 18.♗xf8 ♗xf8 19.♗xh7, but after 19...♗c4 Black has some form of counterplay after all.

### 17.♗xa6 ♗xa6



### 18.♗xd6+! ♗xd6 19.♗f7!

Cutting off the black king's retreat. Black is lost.

### 19...♗h6

Or 19...f5 20.f4, and it's all over.

### 20.♗d1+ ♗e5 21.♗h5+ ♗g5 22.♗d4!

Black resigned. There is no parrying 23.f4+.

### SI 34.6

- Bukal
- Stein, Bernd

Dortmund 1993

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♗xc6 bxc6 7.e5 ♗d5 8.♗e4 f5 9.exf6 e.p. ♗xf6 10.♗d6+ ♗xd6 11.♗xd6 ♗a6!?

A well-known pseudo-sacrifice in this position, but 11...♗b6 is also a playable move.

### 12.c4



An ambitious plan. White's reply 12.♔a6 ♖a5+13.♔d2 ♗a6 14.♔b4 looks strong but after 14...0-0-0 or 14...♗f7 Black is fine.

**12...♖b6 13.♔d3**

The best way to parry the hidden threat 13...♗xf2+. 13.e5 ♖b4+ 14.♗d2 ♗xd2+15.♔xd2 ♔xf1 16.♔xf1 ♔d5 gives Black good prospects.



**13...♔xc4!**

Surprising and strong, but probably not winning.

**14.♔xc4 ♔e4 15.♖a3**

White's best option. Bad is 15.♗f4? ♖b4+, white 15.♗d3?! ♗xf2+ 16.♔d1 ♗xg2 17.♔f1 ♔f2+ 18.♗f2 ♗xf2 favours Black: 19.♗d6 ♔f8 20.♔d2 ♔f5 21.♔b4 c5 22.♔c3 ♔g5 23.♔e1 ♗xb2 24.♔c1 ♔g4, and White resigned, Kettner-Stein, Karlsruhe 1988.

**15...♗xf2+ 16.♔d1 ♗d4+**

And not 16...♗xg2? 17.♔f1.

**17.♔d3 ♔f2+**

The crucial position of this variation.

**18.♔c2!**

The game Adorjan-Quinteros, Amsterdam 1977, saw 18.♔e2? ♔xh1 19.♔e3 ♗d5! 20.♔f1 ♗e5! 21.g3 ♔b8! 22.♔e1 ♗xb2 23.♔c5 ♔f8+!, and White resigned. This game gave 12.c4 a bad reputation for years.

**18...♔xh1 19.♔g5!**

The point of the previous move. White wins the stray knight on h1, after which the materi-

al is roughly balanced (two bishops against rook and two pawns). The white king is reasonably safe on c2, but things remain exceedingly complicated, because Black may still be able to win the white g and h-pawns.

**19...c5 20.♗xh1 ♗d5 21.♔d2 0-0**

After 21...♗xg2 25.♗e1 the annoying 22.♔c1.

**22.♔f1 ♔xf1 23.♔xf1 ♔f8 24.♔d3 ♔f2**

**25.♗xg7 ♔g5**

Or 25...♗xg2 26.♔c3 ♗xh2 (26...♔xd2 27.♗xd7 ♔f2 28.♗xe6+ is not clear either)

27.♗xd7 ♔e5+ 28.♔c2, with an unclear position, according to Nikitin.

**26.♖a5 ♔f7 27.♔e4 ♖f4 28.♔f3 d5**

**29.♔c1 ♔f1+**

Black settles for a draw. The alternative 29...♗xh2 30.♗a7+ ♔g6 31.♗xc5 ♗g1+ 32.♔d1 ♗xg2 33.♗c6 ♔f6 34.♗c3+ is by no means clear.

**30.♔c2 ♔f2 31.♔c1 ♔f1+**

Draw.

SI 41.6

□ Skripchenko

■ Cramling

Belgrade 1996

**1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 ♔f6 5.♔c3 ♗b6**

This plan, with the small transposition 4.♖b6 5.♔c3 ♔f6!?, was thought up in the '60s by the Swedish opening guru Rolf Martens and baptised GäPå. It was only when he mentioned it in the introduction to a remarkable article in the Swedish magazine *SSKK-Bulletinen* 1988/1 and subsequently devoted a series of articles to it in *Schacknytt*, that the idea acquired a following.

**6.e5 ♔c5 7.e3**

This is an automatic response. In the rapid game Van den Doel-McShane, Brussel 2000, White played 7.exf6 ♔xd4 8.fg7 ♔xg7

9.♗g4 (9.♔b5!? at once is also worth considering) 9...♔d4 10.♗g3. After 10...♔c6 11.♔b5 ♔e5?! 12.♔f4! Black quickly landed himself in insurmountable trouble on the dark squares. The endgame after 11...d5 12.♔c7+ ♗xc7 13.♗xc7 ♔e5 14.♗xe5 ♔xe5 15.♔e3, however, is also better for White. Black should probably go for 10...♖b4 11.a3 ♔xc3+ 12.bxc3 ♗f8, followed by 13...♔g8.

**7...♔d5**

Black has no choice. Bad is 7...♗xb2? 8.♔a0, or 7...♔g4? 8.♗xg4 ♗xb2 9.♔d1 ♗xal 10.♗xg7 ♔f8 11.♔b5, and White wins in both cases.

**8.♔xd5 exd5 9.♔f5**



An attempt at refutation! But 9.♔e2 ♔c6 10.c3 is probably simply strong for White, e.g. 10...♔xe5 11.b4 ♔xd4 12.♔xd4 ♖e6 13.0-0. And 9.♔b5 0-0 10.♔xc5 ♗xc5 11.♖d4 is also good for White.

**9...♗xb2!?**

9...♔xe3 10.♔d6+ ♔e7 may also be playable: 11.♔f5+ ♔d8 12.♔xe3 ♗xb2.

**10.♔xc5?!**

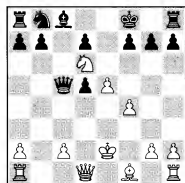
This is not the way to go! 10.♔d6+? ♔xd6 11.exd6 ♖b4+ also favours Black, as does 10.♔xg7+? ♔d8, while after 10.f4?! ♔xe3 11.♔xe3 ♖b4+ 12.♗d2 ♗xf4 13.♔xd5 ♗xe5+ 14.♗e2 ♗xe2+ 15.♔xe2 ♔d8 16.0-0 d6 White's compensation for the two pawns falls well short.

Which leaves White's best bet 10.♔d3!; after 10...♗c3+ 11.♔f1 ♔xe3 (11...0-0? is bad in view of 12.♔xc5 ♗xc5 13.♔xg7! ♔xg7 14.♗g4+ ♔h8 15.♗f5, and mate) 12.♔d6+ ♔e7?! (and not 12...♔f8? 13.♗f3 or 12...♔d8? 13.♔xf7+ ♔c7 14.♔xh8, Diaz-Bellon Lopez, Cienfuegos 1996) 13.♔f5+ ♔f8 14.♔xe3 ♗xe5 we have an unclear position.

**10...♖c3+ 11.♔e2**

Or 11.♗d2 ♗xa1+ 12.♔e2 ♗xe5+ 13.♖e3 (after 13.♗d1 ♗xf5 14.♔d3 (or 14.♔b5 ♔c6 15.♔e1+ ♔d8, and White has nothing) 14...♗h5+ 15.♔e2 ♗h6 16.♗xd5 ♔c6 17.♔e1 ♔d8 White has insufficient compensation for his rook) 13...♗xe3+ 14.♔xc3 d6! 15.♔xd6+ ♔d7 16.♔xf7 (16.g3 ♔c6) 16...♔e8+ 17.♔d2 ♔e6, and according to Cramling, Black is better.

**11...♗xc5 12.♔d6+ ♔f8 13.f4**



13.♔d6? won't do either: 13...♔c6 14.♖f4 ♗xc2+ 15.♔e3 ♗c3+ 16.♔d3 ♔xe5, nor will 13.♔xc8 ♔c6! 14.♔d6 ♔xe5 15.♔f5 (or 15.♔xb7 ♗b5+, or 15.f4 ♔g4) 15...♔e8 16.♔c3 ♔g4 17.♔d2 d4, and Black wins.

**13...♔c6 14.♔f3 f6! 15.♔xc8 fx5! 16.fx5 ♔xe5+ 17.♔f4 ♔xc8 18.♔xe5** 18.♗d2 also turns out to be useless after 18...♔c6.

**18...♔e8+ 19.♔f5 ♔e4! 20.♖f3 ♖e7**

White resigned.

## SI 41.7

□ Tisdall

■ Lee

London 1982

1.d4 e6 2.e4 c5 3.♘f3 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♗c3 ♟b4

The Pin variation, which leads to extremely sharp play.

6.e5 ♟e4?

This move is highly suspect, but it gets an occasional opening to surprise an opponent. 6...♗a5? or 6...♗c7? is no good either: 7.♙f6 ♟xc3+ 8.bxc3 ♗xc3+ 9.♗d2 ♗xa1 10.c3 ♗b1 11.♗d3 ♗b6 12.fxg7 ♗g8 13.♗h6.

7.♗g4! ♟xc3

Unfortunately, the interesting possibility 7...♗a5 can't save this line either. An example is Makarov-Gulko, Soviet Union 1963: 8.♗xe4 ♟xc3+ 9.bxc3 ♗xc3+ 10.♗e2 ♗xa1 11.♗a3 ♗xa2 12.♗b5 ♗d8 13.♗h4+ ♟f6 14.exf6 ♗xc2+ 15.♗c3 ♗b3+ 16.♗d3, and Black resigned.

8.♗xg7 ♗f8 9.a3 ♟b5+

Other moves are no better: 9...♗a5 10.♗h6 ♗e7 11.♗b3, or 9...♗b6 10.axb4 ♗xd4 11.♗h6 ♗e4+ 12.♗d2 ♗d4+ 13.♗d3 ♟e4+ 14.♗c1, or 9...♗c6 10.axb4 ♟xd4 11.bxc3 ♟xc2+ 12.♗d1 ♟xa1 13.♗g5, in all cases with a win for White.

10.axb4 ♟xd4 11.♗g5 ♗b6

11...♟f6 also favours White: 12.♗xf6 ♗f7 13.♗g8+ ♗f8 14.♗xf8+ ♗xf8 15.♗xd8 ♟xc2+ 16.♗d2 ♟xa1 17.♗c7 ♟c6 18.♗d6+, and Black has to give up ♟a1 again.

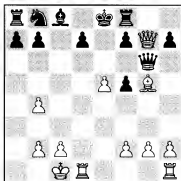
12.♗d3

The theory books give the old game Szabo-Mikenas, Kemer 1939: 12.♗h6 ♗xb4+ 13.c3 ♟f5 14.cxb4 ♟xg7 15.♗xg7 ♗g8 16.♗f6, with a large advantage for White. The text looks at least as strong.

12...♟f5

12...d6 or 12...d5 may be better moves.

13.♗xf5 exf5 14.0-0-0 ♗g6



15.e6! d5

15...♗xg7 is met by 16.exd7+ ♟xd7 17.♗he1+ ♟e6 18.♗d8 mate!

16.♗xd5 ♟c6 17.e7! ♟xe7 18.♗d8+!

Black resigned in view of 18...♗xd8 19.♗xf8+ ♟c7 20.♗xe7+.

## SI 41.7

□ Chavez

■ Estevez Morales

Nicaragua 1981

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♗c3 ♟b4 6.e5 d5 7.♗g4 0-0?

An unclear exchange sacrifice that yields Black some prospects. Instead of the text, 7...g6?! 8.♗d2 is simply good for White.

8.♗h6 g6 9.♗xf8 ♗xf8 10.♗e2 ♟c6

11.♗g3 d6! 12.0-0-0!

After 12.exd6 ♟xd6 Black's strong bishops give him good compensation for the exchange. Maybe 12.a3! is White's best move, although after 12...♟c5!?! 13.exd6 ♟xd6 14.♗g5 ♟e5, or 13.d4 dxe5 14.♟xc5 ♗xc5, or 13.b4 ♟xc3 14.bxc5 ♟e4 15.♗f4 d5 Black is fairly OK.

12...dxe5 13.♟xd5 exd5 14.a3

14.♗xd5 runs into 14...♟e6, of course.

14...♟e7 15.♗xd5 ♟f5!

A good square for the bishop! Square c2 is coming under attack.

16.♟c3?

This is refuted, but after 16.♗b1 Black plays 16...♗c8, after which the intended 17.♟c1 fails to 17...♟xc2+!

16...♟xa3! 17.bxa3 ♗xa3+ 18.♗d2

18.♗b1 is also met by 18...♟xc2+.

18...♟xc2! 19.♗d3?!

19.♗xc2 ♟b4+ is equally hopeless: 20.♗d1 ♗a1+ 21.♗e2 ♟xd5 22.♟xd5 ♗a2+.

19...♟b3! 20.♟c1 ♟xd5 21.♟xd5 ♗a2+

22.♗e1 ♗xd5

White resigned.

## SI 41.7

□ Ftacnic

■ Helmers

Gjovik 1983

1.♟f3 c5 2.e4 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4  
 ♟f6 5.♗c3 ♟b4 6.e5 d5 7.♗g4 0-0  
 8.♗d2! ♟xc3 9.bxc3 ♟e7!

This position usually arises via the move order 7.♗d2 ♟xc3 8.bxc3 ♟e7 9.♗g4 0-0. See the next game.

10.♗h6 g6 11.♗xf8

An alternative is 11.h4!?. White spurns the exchange – his ♗h6 will come in handy when he starts attacking the black king. In the game Hansen-Kristensen, Danish championship 1998, there followed: 11...♗a5 12.♗g3 d6 13.♗b5 ♟c6 14.h5!?! ♟xe5 15.f4 ♗d7 16.fxg5 ♟xb5 17.♗xb5 ♗xb5, with complicated play.

11...♗xf8 12.♗d3 d6! 13.♗g3

After 13.exd6, 13...e5 14.♟f5 is unclear, but 13...♗xd6 is not bad for Black, according to the Dutch master Jeroen Bosch.

13...♗a5 14.0-0 dxe5

Less good is 14...♟xe5?! in view of 15.f4, followed by 16.f5.

15.♟f3 ♟d7!

15...♟c6?! seems more logical, but then 16.♟e4! is strong, e.g. 16...♗xc3 17.♗ad1.

16.♗ad1 ♗xc3 17.♟g5

The position is very hard to assess. 17.♗b5 ♗c7 18.♗d7 ♟d7 19.♟xe5 ♟d6 20.f4 has also been suggested, but in this variation 19...♟e8 (instead of 19...♟d6) is good for Black, Bosch. With the text White launches an attack.

17...♟c7!

17...♟g7? is bad in view of 18.♟xg6! ♗xg3 19.♟xf7+.

18.♗h4 ♟f6

Black has to be careful; 18...h6?! can be met by 19.♟xe6! ♟xe6 20.♟xg6.

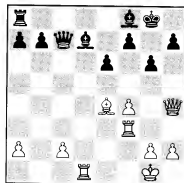
19.f4

19.♟xg6? ♟xe6 20.♗xf6 ♟xa2 is good for Black.

19...e4!

Black must keep the f-file closed, of course. After 19...h6? White could have played 20.♟xf7 ♟xf7 21.fxe5 ♗xe5 22.♟xf6+ ♗xf6 23.f1.

20.♟xe4 ♟xe4 21.♟xe4 ♗d7 22.♗f3



22...♟c6

22...f5?! 23.♗d3 ♟c6 was better. The white attack has run out of steam and Black still has two strong bishops for the exchange.

23.♗xc6

23.♗e1?! may be slightly stronger.

23... ♖xc6 24. ♜fd3 ♖xc2 25. ♚d7 ♖xa2  
26. ♖f6 ♖c5+ 27. ♖h1 ♜f8 28.h4 h5  
29. ♚xb7 ♖c2 30. ♚d8

Draw. Black has perpetual check after  
30... ♖c1+ 31. ♖h2 ♖g1+.

SI 41.7

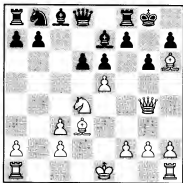
□ Walsh  
■ Amann

Correspondence game 1998

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♚xd4  
♚f6 5. ♖c3 ♚b4 6.e5 ♖d5 7. ♚d2!?

This is probably White's strongest move.

7... ♚xc3 8. bxc3 ♚e7 9. ♖g4 0-0  
10. ♚d3!? d6 11. ♚h6 g6



12.f4!?

White is not interested in the exchange!

12... ♚d7 13.h4!? dxe5 14.h5! ♚f6

14... exd4? is impossible in view of 15.hxg6  
of course.

15. ♖g3 ♚hx5 16. ♚hx5 exd4 17.0-0-0!?

Steijn-Cornu, correspondence game 1990,  
went as follows: 17. ♚f2 dxc3 18. ♚ah1 ♚d4+  
19. ♚f1 ♚d7? (better is 19... ♚d8!), and Black  
holds: 20. ♚g5 ♚xg5 21. ♖xg5 ♚d5! 22.f5!  
♚xf5+ 23. ♚xf5 exf5 24. ♚xh7 ♖d1+, thus

Bosch) 20. ♚g5 ♚xg5 21. ♖xg5 ♖g7 22. ♚h6,  
and White had a winning attack.

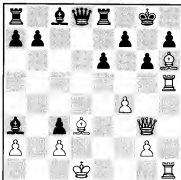
17... ♚a3+

Bad is 17... dxc3? 18. ♚dh1, followed by ♚g5.

18. ♚d2 ♚e8

According to Bosch, 18... dxc3+!? is also  
worth considering.

19. ♚dh1 dxc3+ 20. ♚d1



20... ♚e7?

Now the white attack strikes home. Accord-  
ing to Walsh, Black should have played  
20... e5, e.g. 21. fxe5 ♖d7! 22. ♚h4 ♚e7  
23. ♚g5 h5 (or 23... ♚xg5 24. ♖xg5 ♖d5  
25. ♚xh7 ♚xg5 26. ♖h4 ♚f5!) 24. ♚xe7 ♚xe7  
25. ♚hx5 ♖g4+ 26. ♚e2 gxh5 27. ♚xg4  
♚xg4+ 28. ♚c1, with an approximately equal  
endgame, or 21. ♚g5 gxh5! 22. ♚hx5 (and not  
22. ♚xd8+? ♚g4+) 22... ♖d7! 23.f5 f6  
24. ♚xf6+ ♚f8 25. ♚g5 ♖c7, with an unclear  
position.

21. ♚g7! ♚f6

The only move.

22. ♚xf6 ♖xf6 23. ♚xh7 ♚d7

Or 23... ♚f8 24.f5!, or else 23... e5 24. ♚xg6,  
in both cases with a win for White.

24. ♖e3!

With the threat of 25.f5, followed by ♖h6, or  
♚h6, or g4-g5, 24. ♚xg6? fxxg6! 25. ♚h6 (or  
25. ♚xd7 ♚d8, or 25. ♚h6 ♖d4+ 26. ♚c1  
♚e7) 25... ♚d4+ 26. ♚e2 ♚b5+ 27. ♚f3 ♖d1+

would have been incorrect, again according to  
Bosch.

24... ♚f8 25.f5! ♚e7

After 25... exf5 26. ♚h8+ or 25... gxf5 26. ♚h6  
it's all over.

26. fxxg6 ♚f8 27. ♖c5+ ♚e8 28. gxf7+

Black resigned in view of 28... ♚xf7 29. ♚h8+  
♚f8 30. ♚g6+!

SI 41.7

□ Wagman  
■ Barle

Biel 1981

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♚xd4  
♚f6 5. ♖c3 ♚b4 6.e5 ♖d5 7. ♚d2 ♚xc3  
8. bxc3 ♚a5?!

This is not the best spot for the bishop. Better  
is 8... ♚e7, to help defend the kingside.

9. ♖g4! 0-0

9... ♚f8 is not a nice move. After 10. ♚d3 d6  
11.f4 White has the better prospects.

10. ♚d3 d6

Other moves are no better. A few examples:  
10... ♚f8 11.0-0 ♖xe5 12. ♚ae1 ♖d6 13. ♚f4  
♖b6 14. ♚xh7+! ♚xh7 15. ♚e3 ♖d8 16. ♚g3  
g6 17. ♚e5, and wins, A. Vitolinsh-Pavlenko,  
Dnepropetrovsk 1976, and 10... ♚c6  
11. ♚xc6 bxc6 12. ♖e4 g6 13.h4 f5 14. ♖f4  
♚f7 15.g4 fxxg4 16. ♖xg4 ♖b6 17.h5! ♖xf2+  
18. ♚d1 ♖f3+ 19. ♖xf3 ♚xf3 20.hxg6 hxg6  
21. ♚e2!, with winning play. Even without  
the queen the white attack strikes home,  
Pyhäälä-Seppänen, Helsinki 1992.

11. ♚f3 g6

After 11... dxe5? the bishop sacrifice on h7 is  
already winning: 12. ♚xh7+ ♚xh7 13. ♖h5+  
♚g8 14. ♚g5 ♚e8 15. ♖xf7+ ♚h8 16. ♖h5+

♚g8 17. ♖h7+ ♚f8 18. ♖h8+ ♚e7  
19. ♖xg7+.

12.h4! dxe5 13.h5 f5

Otherwise White takes on g6. But the weak-  
ening text-move give White a chance to make a  
beautiful sacrifice.



14. ♚xf5! exf5

After 14... ♚xf5 White plays 15.hxg6 h5  
16. ♚xh5, and wins.

15. ♖c4+ ♚f7

Or 15... ♚g7 16.hxg6 ♚xg6 17. ♚xe5+ ♖f6  
18. ♚g5+ ♚xg5 19. ♖h4+.

16.hxg6 hxg6 17. ♚g5 ♖c7 18. ♖h4  
♚f8 19. ♚xf7

19. ♖h8+ ♚e7 20. ♚xf7 was the quickest way  
to win.

19... ♚xf7 20. ♖h7+ ♚e6

After 20... ♚f6 White plays 21. ♚g5+!, which  
also wins.

21. ♖xg6+ ♚d5 22. ♚h6 ♚c6 23. ♖g8+  
♖c5 24. ♚b1 b5 25. ♚e3+ ♚d4

26. ♚xd4+ exd4 27. ♖f8+ ♚c4 28. ♖g8+  
♖c5 29. ♚xb5!

The end of a successful king hunt.

29... ♚xb5 30. ♖d5+ ♖c5 31.a4+

Black resigned.

## Accelerated Fianchetto

With 2...♟c6 and 4...g6

SI 33.1

- Yordanov  
 Spiridonov

Sofia 1964

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
 g6 5.♟xc6

A crude attempt to exploit 4...g6 that causes Black no headaches to speak of.

5...bxc6 6.♟d4 ♟f6 7.e5 ♟g8

7...♟d5 is also a reasonable move, e.g. 8.c6 f6 9.exd7+ ♟xd7, and Black is OK.

8.♟c4

After 8.e6 Black simply goes 8...♟f6, e.g. 9.exf7+ ♟xf7 10.♟c3 d5, with excellent play.

8...♟g7 9.♟f4?!

Threatening mate; but with the text White actually endangers his own king! 9.0-0 f6 10.♟xg8 (or 10.exf6 ♟xf6, with good play for Black) 10...♟xg8 11.♟b4 fxe5 12.♟xh7 ♟f7 13.♟h6 e6 is good for Black, Akopian-Faibisovich, Soviet Union 1971.

9...♟a5+ 10.♟f1

After other moves Black takes pawn e5 with check.

10...f5 11.exf6 e.p. ♟xf6 12.♟d2 ♟b6 13.♟c3 d5!

Logical and strong. 13...♟xb2? 14.♟b1 ♟xc2 15.♟b8, on the other hand, is bad.

14.♟a4 ♟d8 15.♟d3 0-0

Now the consequences of White's weak ninth move becomes clear. Black is threatening 16...♟e4.

16.f3 e5 17.♟g5

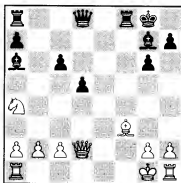
After 17.♟xe5, 17...♟e4 decides at once.

17...e4 18.♟e2 exf3 19.♟xf3 ♟a6+

20.♟g1 ♟e4 21.♟e3

21.♟xd8 fails to 21...♟d4+, and mate.

21...♟xd2 22.♟xd2



22...♟g5! 23.♟d1

White is lost in all variations: 23.♟xg5 ♟d4+, and mate, or 23.♟f2 ♟xf3 24.♟xf3 ♟d4+.

23...♟xf3! 24.♟xg5 ♟d4+

White resigned in view of 25.♟xd4 ♟f1 mate.

SI 33.2

- Kelson  
 Silman

Reno 1993

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4  
 g6 5.♟c3 ♟g7 6.♟e3 ♟f6 7.♟xc6 bxc6

8.e5 ♟g8

For 8...♟d5!?, see the next two games Frolov-Shabalov and Larsen-Hartung Nielsen.

9.f4

After 9.♟d4 Black's best is 9...f6, but 9...♟h6, 9...♟a5 and 9...c5 have also been played.

9...♟h6

The alternative is 9...f6, e.g. 10.♟d4 ♟a5 (10...♟h6 is also good) 11.♟e2 fxe5 12.♟xe5 ♟f6 13.♟c4 ♟b6 14.0-0 d5 15.♟a4 0-0, with roughly equal prospects, Ulubin-Serper, Tbilisi 1989.

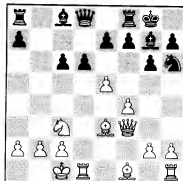
10.♟f3

The most common move is 10.♟d2. An example is the game Computer Fritz2-Kasparov, Germany 1994: 10...0-0 11.0-0 d6! 12.exd6 exd6 13.♟xd6?! (a typical computer move!) 13...♟xd6 14.♟d6 ♟f5 15.♟d3 ♟a6 16.♟c5 ♟xd3 17.♟xf8 ♟xf1 18.♟xg7 ♟xg2 19.♟g1 ♟xg7 20.♟xg2 ♟b8, and the endgame favoured Black.

10...0-0 11.0-0-0

After 11.♟c4 Black has the strong reply 11...♟d5!, e.g. 12.exd6 e.p. exd6 13.♟xc6 ♟d7 14.♟f3 ♟c8 15.♟d3 ♟g4 16.♟d5 ♟c8 17.♟d2 ♟xe3! 18.♟xe3 ♟b6+ 19.♟d2 ♟xb2 20.♟e4 ♟b4+ 21.c3 ♟xc3+ 22.♟xc3 ♟xc3+ 23.♟c3 ♟f5+ 24.♟f2 ♟b2+, and White resigned, Fichtl-Gereben, Warsaw 1956. 11.♟d3 is met strongly by 11...f6.

11...♟d6



12.♟xc6?!

Taking this pawn is extremely risky! It makes more sense to prevent the threat 12...♟g4 with 12.h3, after which Black plays 12...♟c7 or 12...♟a5.

12...♟d7 13.♟d5 ♟g4 14.♟f3

This is virtually forced. After 14.exd6 Black has the very strong 14...♟xe3 15.dxe7 ♟xc7 16.♟xd7 ♟b4; 14.♟d4 is met by 14...dxe5 15.fxe5 ♟e6; and after 14.♟g1 Black has the annoying 14...♟h6!

14...♟xe3 15.♟xe3 ♟e6 16.♟d5 ♟c8

17.♟a6 ♟c5 18.c4

18.♟xe7+ ♟xe7 19.exd6 is refuted by 19...♟xc2+! 20.♟xc2 ♟f5+ 21.♟d2 ♟xd6+ 22.♟xb2 ♟b4+ 23.♟e2 ♟g4+.

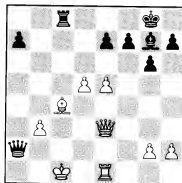
18...♟d5 19.♟d5 ♟xd5 20.cxd5 ♟a5

If he hasn't already, White will now start seriously regretting his 12th move!

21.♟c4 ♟c8 22.b3 ♟xa2 23.♟e1

This looks like the only sensible move, but Black has a refutation at hand.

23...dxe5 24.fxe5



24...♟h6!

Simple and elegant. White cannot prevent Black liquidating to a winning queen ending.

25.♟xh6 ♟xb3 26.♟e4 ♟xc4+ 27.♟xc4

♟xc4+ 28.♟b1 ♟e4+ 29.♟c1 ♟xd5

30.♟e3 ♟xg2 31.♟xa7 ♟h1+

White resigned.

## SI 33.2

- Frolov  
 Shabalov

Moscow 1991

1.e4 c5 2.d3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.dxc4  
 g6 5.♁e3 c6 6.c3 ♁g7 7.♁xc6 bxc6  
 8.e5 ♁d5!?

An interesting pawn sacrifice. Its consequences are not entirely clear, but it yields Black all kinds of chances.

9.♁xd5 cxd5 10.♁xd5 ♁b8 11.♁c4

For the other move, 11.♁xa7, see the game Larsen-Hartung Nielsen.

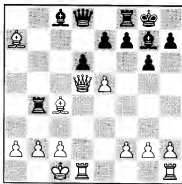
11...0-0 12.0-0-0

Now 12.♁xa7 is very suspect in view of 12...♁b7 13.♁d2 ♁c7! 14.♁xb8 ♁xc4, e.g. 15.♁a7 ♁xg2 16.♁g1 ♁xe5 17.c3 ♁c6, with advantage for Black. 12.0-0 was certainly an option: 12...♁b7 13.♁d3 ♁xe5 14.♁xa7 ♁c8 15.♁d4 ♁xh2+ 16.♁xh2 ♁c7+ 17.♁g1 ♁xc4, with an unclear endgame. Who is better?

12...d6

12...♁f7 has also been played. An example is Firman-Efimenco, Lvov 2001: 13.♁b3 ♁xe5 14.♁c5 a5 15.♁d5 ♁xc5 16.♁xc5 ♁xb2+ 17.♁xb2 a4 18.♁c7 axb3 19.cxb3, and now Black's best bet possibly was 19...f5!?. The position is unclear.

13.♁xa7 ♁b4



## 14.♁b3

A good alternative is 14.♁c5!?, e.g. 14...♁e6 (or 14...e6 15.♁xd6 ♁xd6 16.♁d6 ♁xc4 17.♁xf8 ♁xf8 18.♁he1, and the endgame is marginally better for White) 15.♁xe6 fxe6 16.♁xe6+ ♁h8 17.♁xb4 ♁xe5 18.f3, and White has slightly better prospects, according to Frolov.

14...♁c7?!

This has a happy ending, but 14...♁xe5, followed by ...♁e6, may be a better idea.

15.exd6!? ♁xa7 16.d7 ♁xb3  
 17.dxc8♁?!

I think White should have played the stronger 17.axb3!? here, and it is doubtful whether Black will get enough compensation for the exchange, e.g. 17...♁xd7 18.♁xd7 ♁a1+ 19.♁d2 ♁xh2 20.g3.

17...♁xb2+ 18.♁b1 ♁b8! 19.♁h3!  
 ♁g7+ 20.♁c1 ♁b2+

Being a queen down, Black happily settles for a draw by perpetual check, of course. But according to Tal and Vaganian, 20...e6!? comes into consideration. Black keeps at least a draw by perpetual check and he can meet 21.♁f3 with 21...♁f8, intending 22...♁c2+!

21.♁b1 ♁g7+  
 Draw.

## SI 33.2

- Larsen, Pelle  
 Hartung Nielsen

Copenhagen 1995

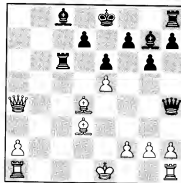
1.e4 e5 2.♁f3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♁xd4  
 g6 5.♁c3 ♁g7 6.♁e3 c6 7.♁xc6 bxc6  
 8.e5 ♁d5! 9.♁xd5 cxd5 10.♁xd5 ♁b8  
 11.♁xa7 ♁xb2 12.♁d4 ♁xc2 13.♁d3 e6  
 14.♁a8 ♁c6 15.♁a4?!

An unfortunate move. A better option is 15.♁b5, after which Black can play 15...♁a6! 16.♁xa6 ♁a5+ 17.♁f1 0-0 18.♁e4 (or 18.♁a7! ♁xa6+ 19.♁g1, with an unclear position. Black's best bet is 19...♁xe5, mee-

ting 20.h4 with 20...♁d5, according to an analysis by Petursson) 18...♁xa6+ 19.♁g1 d6, and Black has good counterplay.

15.0-0 is also possible; White takes his king to safety. A possible continuation then is 15...0-0 16.♁b5 ♁a6! 17.♁xd8 ♁xd8 18.♁xc6 ♁xf1 19.♁f1 dxc6, with a roughly equal endgame, e.g. 20.♁c3 ♁d3 21.♁c1 ♁d5 22.f4 g5 23.fxg5 ♁xe5 24.♁xe5 ♁xe5 draw, Ribeiro-Lopez, Ciego de Avila 1996.

15...♁h4!



15...♁c7! is also good: 16.0-0 ♁xe5 17.♁b5 ♁xd4 18.♁xd4 e5 19.♁f1 ♁c5 20.a4 0-0 21.♁b4 d6, with advantage for Black, Löffler-Clavierie, Cannes 1996.

16.♁b5?

Now White will lose quickly. But 16.g3 ♁g4 won't solve White's problems either, as we know from the game Lücke-Sander, Germany 1995: 17.f4 ♁f3 18.♁d2 0-0.

16...♁e4+ 17.♁d2

17...♁e3 costs White his e-pawn.

17...♁h6+ 18.♁d1 0-0! 19.♁e1

After 19.♁c6 Black plays 19...♁d3+, and wins.

19...♁g4+ 20.f3 ♁xg2 21.♁e2 ♁f1+  
 22.♁e1 ♁xf3+ 23.♁e2 ♁h1+ 24.♁e1  
 ♁xh2 25.♁e2 ♁h1+ 26.♁e1 ♁f3+  
 27.♁e2 ♁b7

White has been completely stripped of material, so he resigned.

## SI 33.2

- Varadi  
 Sabjan

Correspondence game 1985

1.e4 e5 2.♁f3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♁xd4  
 c6 5.♁c3 g6?!

The semi-accelerated Dragon can justifiably be called a dubious side-variation.

6.♁xc6 bxc6 7.e5 ♁g8

Contrary to the variation just considered, 1.e4 e5 2.♁f3 c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♁xd4 g6 5.♁c3 ♁g7 6.♁c3 c6 7.♁xc6 bxc6 8.e5 ♁d5!?. (SI 33.2), 7...♁d5? cannot be recommended here: 8.♁xd5 cxd5 9.♁xd5 ♁b8 10.e6!, with the point 10...dxe6? (there is nothing better than 10...f6 11.♁f4, with a large advantage for White) 11.♁c5, and Black loses a rook. This actually happened in the game Matuskevich-Kuznetsov, Tula 1957.

8.♁c4 ♁a5!?

8...♁g7 9.♁f3 f5 10.♁f4 e6 11.0-0-0 ♁c7 is one of the most important variations in the black system. It is not clear whether White can actually create an advantage here, yet practice has shown that Black is running the biggest risks. An example is Van der Tak-Widera, correspondence game 2001: 12.h4 c6 13.h5 c7 (13...g5!?) 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.♁g3 g5 16.♁xg5 ♁xe5 17.f4 ♁f6 18.♁xh8+ ♁xh8 19.♁h1 ♁g7 20.♁f3 d5 21.♁c3 e5? (handing it to White on a plate) 22.♁xd5! cxd5 23.♁xd5 exf4 24.♁c6+! ♁f8 25.c3! ♁b8 26.♁x7 ♁e5 27.♁xh8+ ♁x7 28.♁h7+ ♁f8 29.♁h6+ ♁e8 30.♁f4 ♁d8 31.♁g8+ ♁e8 32.♁g5+, and Black resigned.

9.♁f4 ♁g7 10.♁f3

10.0-0 is also possible, e.g. 10...♁xe5 11.♁xe5 ♁xe5 12.♁e1 ♁g4 13.♁e4 ♁f6 14.♁c3 d5 15.♁xd5! cxd5? (15...♁f5, as in Timman-Kortchnoi, Brussels 1991, is more stubborn) 16.♁xd5 ♁b8 17.♁e4 ♁g7 18.♁b3 ♁b7 (or 18...♁b3 19.♁c6+) 19.♁xb7, and White won in Honfi-Fabian, Budapest 1977.

### 10...e6

10...f6 is met strongly by 11.e6!, e.g. 11...d5 12.♘b5!, winning.

### 11.0-0 ♖xe5 12.b4 ♜c7

12...♗xb4 13.♙xe5 f6 fails to 14.♙xe6!.

### 13.♙b5 ♜b8 14.♙xe5 ♜xe5 15.♙d1 d5 16.♙f1 ♜b8



### 17.♜c3

17.♙xd5 exd5 18.♗xd5 is another winning continuation; 18...♗f8 19.♜c5+! ♔g7 20.♙d8 ♜b7 20...♙f6 21.♙xh8 ♔xh8 22.♙f8+ ♔g8 23.♙d6 21.♙f8+ ♔f6 22.♙d6 ♜c7 23.♙e4+ ♔f5 24.♙xe7, and Black resigned, Geenen-Miranda, Novi Sad Olympiad 1990.

### 17...f6

Or 17...e5 18.♙xd5 exd5 19.♙xe5+ ♔f8 20.♙xd5, and it's all over.

### 18.♙xd5!

And each time this sacrifice decides the outcome.

### 18...exd5 19.♙xd5 ♔f7

After 19...♙e7 20.♙d6+ ♔d7 21.♙d3 Black is also lost, e.g. 21...♙d5 22.♙e4 ♙a6 23.♙xd5+ exd5 24.♙c5+. Thus an analysis by the Hungarian Bottlik.

### 20.♙d8! ♜xb5 21.♜c7+ ♔e7 22.♙xh8 ♜xb4 23.c3 ♜h4 24.♙d8 e5 25.♙f8+ ♔e6 26.♙e8

Black resigned, as he will be mated: 26...f5 27.♙xe5! ♔xe5 28.♙xe7+ ♔f4 29.♙d2+ ♔g4 30.h3+.

### SI 33.4

#### □ Meszaros

#### ■ Dóry

Zalaegerszeg 1999

### 1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 ♙c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 g6 5.♙c3 ♔g7 6.♙e3 ♙f6 7.♙c4 0-0 8.♙b3 a5

The move of the Lithuanian player Uoegle.

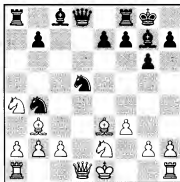
### 9.f3 d5 10.exd5

After 10.♙xd5 ♙xd5 11.exd5 ♙b4 12.c4 a4 13.♙c2 a3 14.b3 e5 Black has a sound position. For 10.♙xd5, see the next game Milenkovic-Ujhazi.

### 10...♙b4 11.♙d2

After 11.♙db5 Black can play 11...a4! 12.♙xa4 ♙fxd5, e.g. 13.♙d2 ♔d7 14.♙bc3 ♙xa4 15.♙xa4, and now the recommendation by Nielsen and Hansen 15...♙xa4! 16.♙xa4 ♙xb2 17.♙b1 ♙c3 18.♙xc3 ♙xc3+ 19.♙f1 ♙a5 20.♙b3 ♙d8, and Black has good compensation for the exchange.

11...a4! 12.♙xa4 ♙fxd5



### 13.♙d2

After 13.♙d4 Black plays 13...♙f5, when 14.♙ac3? is bad in view of 14...♙xc2! 15.♙xc2 ♙xd4 16.♙xd4 ♙c3, and White resigned, Sachs-Uoegle, correspondence game 1968. Also bad is 14.c3? ♙d3+ 15.♙f1 ♙xa4 16.♙xa4 ♙xd4, Roose-Uoegle, correspon-

dence game 1970. 14.♙xg7 ♔xg7 15.♙f2 is less clear, but after 15...e5, possibly followed by ...♙xa4 and ...♜b6, Black has compensation for the sacrificed pawn. A playable option is 13.♙f2; in Shirov-Lautier, Tilburg 1997, there followed 13...♙f5 14.0-0 b5 15.♙ac3 ♙xc3 16.♙xc3 ♜xd1 17.♙fd1 ♙xc2, with an equal endgame.

### 13...♙xa4!?

13...♙f5 has also been played here. I will have to refer you to the theory books.

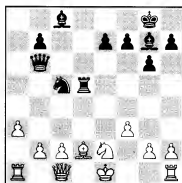
### 14.♙xa4 ♜b6!?

This move is an improvement on 14...♙a5?! 15.a3 ♜xa4 16.axb4 ♜c6 17.0-0 ♙xb2 18.♙a5, and Black has insufficient compensation for the sacrificed exchange, Rogers-Laird, Brisbane 1994.

### 15.a3

Bad is 15.♙b3? ♙d8, e.g. 16.♙xb4 ♙xb4 17.♙c1 ♙f5 18.a3 ♙xc2+! 19.♙xc2 ♙xb2.

### 15...♙a6 16.♙b3 ♙d8 17.♙c1 ♙c5 18.♙xd5 ♙xd5



### 19.b4?!

19.♙b1! is stronger: 19...♙f5 20.♙c3 ♙e5 21.♙f2 ♙xe3! 22.♙xe3 ♙h6! 23.f4 ♙e4+ 24.♙f3 ♙g4+! 25.♙xe4 ♙c6+ 26.♙d3 ♙f5+ 27.♙d2 ♙xc2+ 28.♙e1 ♙xb1+ 29.♙c1, with an unclear position. Thus an analysis by the Hungarian Bottlik. A fascinating little variation, incidentally!

### 19...♙xa1 20.bxc5

20.♙xa1 ♙e6 looks good for Black. He should have compensation for the pawn he is down.

20...♙b2 21.♙xb2 ♙xb2 22.♙b4 ♙f6 Black has emerged from the complications with the better position. White shows only feeble resistance towards the end.

### 23.♙c1?! ♙f5 24.c3 ♙g5 25.♙c2?

Here he should have played 25.0-0!

### 25...♙d2+ 26.♙g3 ♙c2 27.♙b3 e5 28.f4 ♙xf4+ 29.♙f3 g5

White resigned.

### SI 33.4

#### □ Milenkovic

#### ■ Ujhazi

Kladovo 1992

### 1.e4 c5 2.♙e2 ♙c6 3.♙bc3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♙xd4 ♔g7 6.♙e3 ♙f6 7.♙c4 0-0 8.♙b3 a5 9.f3 d5 10.♙xd5 ♙xd5 11.exd5

After 11.♙xd5 Black creates counterplay with 11...f5. The e4 pawn is undermined.

### 11...♙a6 12.♙d2 ♙f5 13.♙c1 b5!?

### 14.a3

The alternative is 14.0-0, which is followed by 14...♙c8 15.♙d4 ♙xd4 (15...♙xc3?! 16.bxc3 ♙xa2 has also been played) 16.♙xa4 ♙xc2 17.♙xc2 ♙xc2 18.♙h6 e5 19.♙xe5 f6, with an unclear position. You'll find more on this subject in the theory books.

### 14...♙xc2+ 15.♙xc2 ♙xc2 16.♙xc2 b4 17.♙a4

An important position for the Uoegle variation. Although there are plenty games and analyses available, things remain unclear to this day.

### 17...♙xd5 18.♙b6 ♙e6 19.♙f2

After 19.♙xa8 this sequence is possible: 19...♙xe3 20.♙c7 ♙c8 21.♙d5 ♙xc2 22.♙xc3 ♙xb2 23.axb4 ♙b1+ 24.♙d1 a4 25.0-0 a3 26.♙dc3 ♙xb4 27.♙d1 h5 28.♙d8+

♭7 29.♖a8 ♖b3 30.♖c8 ♖b2 31.♖a8 ♖b3 32.♖c8 ♖b2, and a draw through move repetition. Thus an analysis by Bagirov.

**19...♖ab8 20.♖f4 ♖a2 21.axb4 axb4 22.♖d1**

Other moves won't worry Black: 22.♖fd5 b3 23.♖e2 ♖b7 24.♖b4 ♖a5 25.♖c6 ♖a2 26.♖d1 ♖xb2 27.♖xb2 ♖xb2 28.♖b1 ♖f6 29.♖xb3 ♖c7 30.♖b4 e6, draw, Klován-Dorfman, Erevan 1975; or 22.♖b1 b3 23.♖xa2 bxa2 24.♖a1 ♖b7! 25.♖xa2 ♖fb8, and according to an analysis by the Americans Silman and Donaldson, Black has reasonable play.

**22...♖d3 23.♖e2 ♖fd8?!**

More accurate is 23...♖b7! 24.♖c4 e6 25.♖d4 ♖d8 26.♖xg7 ♖a7+! 27.♖e3 ♖xd1 28.♖xd1 ♖xg7, and although the endgame was slightly better for White, of course, Black could hold the draw, Hamarat-Ekebjærg, correspondence game 1994.

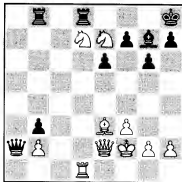
**24.♖fd5 e6**

After 24...♖xb2 25.♖xe7+ ♖h8 26.♖xb2 ♖xb2 27.♖b1 the endgame is better for White.

**25.♖e7+ ♖h8**

25...♖f8 is no stronger: 26.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 27.♖c6, with advantage for White.

**26.♖d7**



**26...♖b7?**

This fatally weakens the bottom rank. More stubborn is 26...♖a8, but even then White is still better: 27.♖d4! ♖xd4+ 28.♖xd4 f6 29.♖d2

♖g7 30.♖c6 ♖ac8 31.♖xf6! ♖xc6 32.♖h5+ gxh5 33.♖g5+ ♖f7 34.♖xh5+ ♖g7 35.♖g5+ ♖f7 36.♖xd8 ♖xb2+ 37.♖g3, and Black resigned, Diani-Enrici, correspondence game 1996. This is also an attractive attack!

**27.♖e5!**

Now White wins by force.

**27...♖f8**

Besides 28.♖xd8+, White was mainly threatening 28.♖xf7 mate.

**28.♖xf7+!**

Anyway!

**28...♖xf7 29.♖d8+ ♖f8**

Or 29...♖f8 30.♖d4+, and mate.

**30.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 31.♖d4+ ♖g7 32.♖e5!**

An elegant final move. Black resigned in view of 32...♖xe5 33.♖xe5 mate, or 32...♖xe7 33.♖bh8+, and mate.

SI 33.4

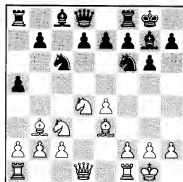
□ Pavlovic

■ Vogt

Zürichsee 2000

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 g6 5.♖c3 ♖g7 6.♖e3 ♖f6 7.♖c4 0-0 8.♖b3 a5 9.0-0!**

A laconic reply!



**9...a4?!**

Although a thematic move in the Uoelge variation, this is slightly dubious in the present position. Safer, and probably not bad, is 9...d6!?. A curious example is is Nataf-Piguov, France 2000: 10.h3 ♖d7? (correct is 10...♖xd4 11.♖xd4 ♖d7) 11.♖xf7+, and a draw was agreed, although White is winning! 11...♖xf7 is met by 12.♖e6! ♖xe6 13.♖d5+, and mate, and after 11...♖xf7 White plays 12.♖e6 ♖e8 13.♖c7 ♖d8 14.♖xa8 ♖xc3 15.bxc3 b5 16.♖d5 ♖b7 17.♖b6! ♖xb6 18.♖xb5, and wins.

**10.♖xa4 ♖xe4**

Until recently, this position was assessed as good for Black, because he wins a central pawn by sacrificing an outside pawn.

**11.♖b5!**

11.♖xc6?!, the old move, is less strong.

**11...♖a6**

11...♖xa4 12.♖xa4 ♖xb2 has also been tried, but this exchange sacrifice is not overly convincing.

**12.♖e2 d6**

Another idea is 12...d5, followed by ...e6, but then White can play ♖fd1 and c4.

**13.c4 ♖f6**

After 13...f5 White has the trick 14.♖b6!, as 14...♖b6? 15.♖xb6 ♖xb6? loses the queen: 16.e5+.

**14.h3 ♖f5**

After 14...♖e6 15.♖ad1 ♖b8 16.♖b6 White is also better, Nataf-Stanojosi, Batumi 1999.

**15.♖d1**

Thanks to the ferocious knight on b5, White is better.

**15...♖a5 16.♖fe1 ♖xb3 17.axb3 ♖d7**

**18.♖ac3 ♖e8 19.♖g5 ♖c6 20.b4 ♖a8**

**21.♖d4 ♖b6?**

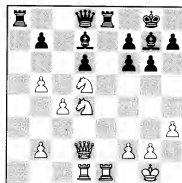
This is a very bad place for the queen. Better was 21...♖d7, when 22.♖xf6 ♖xf6 23.♖d5 ♖g7 24.♖xe7+? won't work in view of 24...♖f8.

**22.b5 ♖d7 23.♖xf6! exf6**

In order to keep at least the bishop; after 23...♖xf6 24.♖d5 ♖d8 25.♖xf6+ exf6

26.♖f3 White has a large advantage.

**24.♖d5 ♖d8 25.♖d2**



**25...♖a5**

25...♖e6 26.♖xe6 fxe6 27.♖f4 is also bad, e.g. 27...♖h6 28.♖e6! ♖xe6 29.♖xe6.

**26.♖xa5 ♖xa5 27.♖b6 ♖d8 28.♖b3**

Black resigned. He is totally lost, e.g. 28...♖a2 29.♖xd6 ♖e8 30.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 31.♖d8 ♖f8 32.♖d5 ♖xb3 33.♖c5.

SI 33.5

□ Shianovsky

■ Gufeld

Moscow 1966

**1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖c6 5.c4 ♖f6 6.♖c3 ♖xd4 7.♖xd4 g6 8.c5**

This leads to tactical complications that Black need not fear. A good set-up is 8.♖g5! ♖g7 9.♖d2, e.g. 9...0-0 10.♖d3 ♖e6 11.♖c1 ♖a5 12.0-0 a6 13.b3 ♖f8 14.♖fe1, with an excellent position for White.

**8...♖g7 9.♖b5+**

9.cxd6 is met by 9...0-0!, e.g. 10.e5 ♖g4 11.♖f4 exd6 12.♖xd6 ♖xe5, with good play for Black.

**9...♖d7 10.cxd6**

After 10.♔d7+ ♖xd7 11.cxd6 Black had an equal position after 11...0-0 12.♕g5 ♖e8 13.♖b4 ♗xd6, Keres-Petrosian, Willemstad Candidates' Tournament 1962.

### 10...0-0 11.e5?!

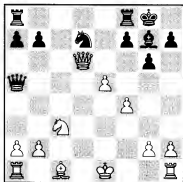
Too ambitious. 11.dxe7?! ♖xe7 should also favour Black, but with 11.0-0 ♔xb5 12.♗xb5 a6 13.♗c3 ♗e8 14.♖b4 ♗xd6 White would still have had a playable position.

### 11...♔xb5 12.♗xb5 ♗d7 13.f4?!

White should have played 13.d7 ♖xe7 14.0-0, although Black is better after 14...♔xe5.

### 13...♖a5+ 14.♗c3 exd6 15.♖xd6?

Here White throws away his last chance. He loses in any case have castled. Now Black blows up the white position.



### 15...♗e5! 16.fxe5 ♔xe5

Thanks to his lead in development and the unfortunate position of the white king, Black has more than enough compensation for the sacrificed piece. White looks lost in all variations.

### 17.♖d3 ♔ad8 18.♖f3

After 18.♖c2 Black wins with 18...♔d4! 19.♖d2 ♔fe8+ 20.♗d1 ♔c3! 21.♔e1 ♖h5+! 22.♗c1 ♔xd2.

### 18...♔d4!

Now, too, this move is extremely strong. The white king cannot castle and is completely at the mercy of the black rooks.

### 19.g3

Or 19.♔f4 ♔fe8+ 20.♗f1 g5 21.♔d2 ♖a6+ 22.♗e2 ♔xb2 23.♔d1 ♔c3!, winning.

### 19...♔fe8+ 20.♗f1 ♔xc3 21.bxc3

After 21.♖xc3 ♔d1+ 22.♗g2 ♖d5+ it is also curtains.

### 21...♖b5+ 22.♗f2

Or 22.♗g2 ♔d3 23.♖f6 ♖d5+ 24.♗h3 ♔e6 25.♖f1 ♖h5+.

### 22...♔d3 23.♖f6 ♔e2+!

White resigned.

### SI 33.7

#### □ Mokry

#### ■ Kallai

Trnava 1985

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 4.g6 5.c4 ♗f6 6.♗c3 d6 7.♔e2 ♗xd4 8.♖xd4 ♔g7 9.♔g5

Another good move is 9.♔e3.

### 9...0-0 10.♖d2 a6

Black prepares the pawn sacrifice ...b5. After 10...♔e6 11.♔c1 ♖a5 12.f3 ♔f8 13.b3 a6 14.♗a4 White's prospects are slightly better.

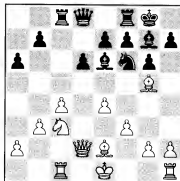
### 11.f3

11.♔c1 may be followed by 11...♔e6 12.b3 ♔c8 13.0-0 b5! 14.cxb5 axb5 15.♔xf6 (after 15.♔xb5?! Black has the trick 15...♖a5 16.♔d3 ♔xc3 17.♔xc3 ♗xe4!) 15...♔xf6 16.♗xb5 ♖bb6, with counterplay for Black Gufelidz-Gufel, Calcutta 1994, and Chiburdanidze-Gufelidz, Kuala Lumpur 1994.

### 11...♔e6 12.♔c1 ♔c8

12...b5?! might well be better. After this move White can try 13.cxb5 axb5 14.b4?!: 14...d5 15.♔xf6 ♔xf6 16.exd5 ♔xc3 17.♔xc3 ♖xd5 18.♖xd5 ♔xd5 19.a3 ♔fc8 20.♔xc8+ ♔xc8 21.♗d2, with slightly better play for White, Hellers-Piket, Thessaloniki Olympiad 1988.

### 13.b3



### 13...b5! 14.cxb5 axb5 15.♔xb5

15.♔xb5?! can be met strongly by 15...♖a5. White can go for the safe option by simply castling kingside: 15.0-0 b4 16.♗b5 ♖a5 17.♔e3 ♗d7 18.♗d4 ♗c5, with an approximately equal position. Szekely-Tangborn, Budapest 1992.

### 15...♔xc1+ 16.♖xc1 ♖a5+ 17.♖d2 ♔a8! 18.a3

Returning the pawn. After 18.♗c3 Black has 18...h6 19.♔e3 ♗g4: 20.♔d4 ♔xd4 21.♖xd4 ♔c8 22.♗d2 ♖g5+ 23.♗e2 ♗e3+ 24.♗b2 ♖xg2 25.♔e1 ♖f2 26.♖d2 d5, with good play.

### 18...♔xb3 19.♖xa5 ♔xa5 20.0-0 ♔a4 21.♔b1 ♔xb5 22.♔xb5 ♔xa3 23.♔b8+ ♔b7 24.♔h6 ♗d7 25.♔d8 ♔a1+ 26.♗f2 ♔a2

The game is balanced, although Black should still be careful. Fortunately he does not need to be afraid of ♔d7, since in that case he takes the bishop on h6.

### 27.g4 f6?

An inaccuracy that could have had fatal consequences for Black. Correct is 27...g5! 28.♔xg5 f6 29.♔h6 ♗f7, and Black is definitely safe.

### 28.♗e3?

White doesn't see it! He could have played 28.e5! here, with the point that Black loses his knight after 28...dxe5 29.♔e3. After 28...fxf5 29.g5 ♔a7 30.♔c4+, or 28...g5 29.e6 it is also over. This trick was discovered by D.Strauss.

### 28...♔c2 29.♔d3

Draw.

### SI 33.9

#### □ Furman

#### ■ Spassky

Moscow 1957

1.♗f3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.e4 ♔g7 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗xd4 ♗c6

Via transposition of moves we now find ourselves in the Accelerated Dragon.

### 6.♔e3 ♗h6

The most frequently played move is 6...♗f6. See the game Sikirin-Glushak.

### 7.♗c3 0-0 8.♔e2 f5 9.exf5 ♔xd4 10.♔xd4?!

Now Black gets good chances. Stronger is 10.♔xb6! ♔f5 11.0-0, e.g. 11...♖b6!? (after 11...d6 12.♖d2 White is slightly better) 12.♗d5 ♔xf2+?! (better was the courageous 12...♖xb2!, with a very unclear position) 13.♔h1 ♗d4? (now things go definitely wrong) 14.♔g4! ♖xd1 15.♔axd1 ♔f7 16.♗xe7+! ♔xe7 17.♔e6!, with winning play for White, Gurshevsky-Veresov, Moscow 1959.

### 10...♔xf5 11.♔c5

White has to move his bishop, as 11.♔e3 ♗e3 12.fxe3 ♖h6 looks unpleasant.

### 11...d6 12.♔a3 ♗f4 13.0-0 ♔f5 14.♔c1

14.♔d3 e5 15.♔e4 was another idea.

### 14...♖d7 15.♗d5 ♔f7

It is becoming clear where Black is going to strike: along the f-file!

### 16.b3 ♔f8 17.♔b2 e5! 18.b4?!

Logical enough in itself. White wants to play b5 to undermine the position of ♗d4. But things are not that simple, as we will see. 18.f4 is less good as well in view of 18...♔e6!, but 18.♔e3! was an option, e.g. 18...♖e7 19.♗xf5 ♔xf5 20.♖d2 ♖h4 21.♖e3, with an unclear position.

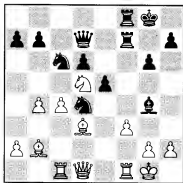
### 18...♔e6! 19.♔d3?

After 19.h5 Black would have played 19...♔xd5 20.cxd5 ♗xe2+ 21.♖xe2 ♗e7, but that would have meant a lot less grief for White than what he is going to suffer now.



**19...♗g4! 20.f3**

After 20.♖d2 Black would have won with 20...♗f3!, e.g. 21.♔e3 ♗xg2.

**20...♗xf3! 21.gxf3 ♔xf3+ 22.♖h1**

22.♗xf3 ♗xf3 23.♗c2 ♖h3 24.♗d2 e4 is equally hopeless.

**22...♖h3 23.♗f2**

Or 23.♖e2 ♔f4 24.♗f7 ♗x7 25.♖d2 e4, and Black wins.

**23...♔e1!**

White resigned.

SI 33.14

□ Sikirin

■ Glushak

Correspondence game 1999

**1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 ♔c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 g6 5.c4 ♗g7 6.♗e3 ♔f6 7.♔c3 ♔g4**

Acting on the well-known principle that the player who is short of space must try to swap pieces.

**8.♖xg4 ♔xd4 9.♖d1 e5**

Alternatives are 9...♔c6 and 9...♔e6.

**10.♔b5!? 0-0**

10...♔xb5 11.exb5 d6 12.♗c4 is good for White.

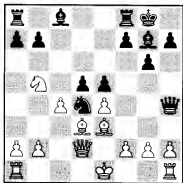
**11.♖d2**

After 11.♔xd4?! exd4 12.♗d4 ♖a5+

13.♗e2 ♗c8 Black gets good chances. But 11.♗e2 is a reasonably playable move. A famous game with it is Gaprindashvili-Servaty, Dortmund 1974: 11...♖h4?! 12.♔xd4 exd4 13.♗xd4 ♖xe4 14.♗xg7 ♖xg2? (there was no better than 14...♗xg7 15.0-0, with advantage for White) 15.♖d4! ♖xh1+ 16.♗d2 ♖xa1 (16...♖c6 17.♗e1 f6 18.♗f8 ♔xf8 19.c5 and 16...♖xh2 17.♗f8 ♔xf8 18.♗e1 are hopeless as well) 17.♖f6!, and Black resigned. There is no cure against 18.♗h6 and mate.

**11...♖h4!?**

The sharpest move in this set-up. The alternative is 11...♖e7, also with sharp play after 12.0-0-0 ♔xb5 13.exb5 d5 14.exd5 ♗d8 15.d6 ♖e6 16.♖b1 ♗f8 17.♖c3!.

**12.♗d3 d5!****13.cxd5**

After 13.cxd5 Black has a good reply in 13...♗h3!, e.g. 14.♗xd4 (14.0-0 ♗xg2 15.♗xg2 ♖g4+, with perpetual check) 14...exd4 15.gxh3 a6 16.♔a3 ♗h6 17.♖c2 ♗a8+ 18.♖d1 (18.♗e2? runs into 18...d3! 19.♖xd3 ♗e3! 20.♖d1 ♗fe8, with winning threats) 18...♖xh3 19.♗e2 ♗xe2 20.♖xe2 d3 21.♖c4 f5 22.♖e6+ ♗f7, and White must go for perpetual check with 23.♖e8+ ♗f8 24.♖e6+ ♗f7 25.♖e8+, according to an old analysis by Boleslavsky.

**13...♔xb5 14.♗xb5 ♖xe4 15.0-0 ♗d8****16.♗f1**

After 16.d6 Black plays 16...♗d7.

**16...♗f8?!**

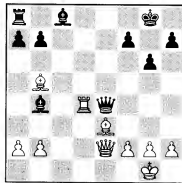
Better moves are 16...♖f5 and 16...♗d7, when Black can maintain the balance, albeit with some effort. For further finesse, please consult the theory books.

**17.♗ac1 ♗b4**

This was the idea, but White can simply sacrifice his d5 pawn.

**18.♖e2 ♗xd5 19.♗c4 d4 20.♗xd4!**

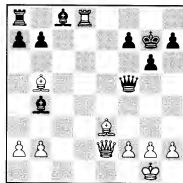
This is the refutation of Black's idea. 20.♗xd4 ♖xe2 21.♗xc8+ ♗xc8 22.♗xe2 exd4 23.♗xd4 ♗c1+ 24.♗f1 ♗c5 25.♗c4, on the other hand, would only lead to equality.

**20...exd4 21.♗xd4****21...♖b1+**

After 21...♖e7 White wins with 22.♗h6! 22...a5 (or 22...♗f5 23.♗xb4 ♖xb4 24.♖e5, and it's all over) 23.♖e5! f6 24.♗c4+ ♖h8 25.♖xc7 ♗xe7 26.♗c4, winning a piece.

**22.♗d1 ♖f5**

Or 22...♖xa2 23.♗d8+ ♔g7 24.♗d4+ f6 25.♖e8, winning.

**23.♗d8+ ♔g7****24.g4! ♖b1+**

After 24...♖e6 25.♗c4 ♖e7 26.♖d3 also has a winning position.

**25.♗d1 ♖xa2 26.♗d4+ f6 27.♗c4 ♖a4****28.g5**

Black resigned.

# Rossolimo Variation

## The Anti-Sicilian with 3...♟b5

SI 31.4

□ **Bezold**  
 ■ **Volkmann**

Austria 1999

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♚c6 3.♟b5

White is prepared to give up the bishop pair in order to weaken the black pawn structure.

3...e6 4.♟xc6

A principled move. White immediately lands Black with doubled pawns and condemns the c8 bishop to a passive role for now. Black should be very careful about when to push d7-d5, after which White blocks with c2-c4 and the c5 pawn becomes very weak.

4...bxc6 5.d3 ♘e7

A much-played manoeuvre, together with ♟g6: Black wants to develop his kingside, and the knight on g6 is ideally placed, since it controls a number of important squares. The normal development with ♟f6 and ♟e7 can be depended on to elicit e4-e5, after which the central pawns can be blocked with tempo.

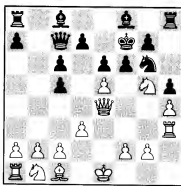
6.h4 h5 7.♟e2 ♚g6 8.e5! f6

I was myself once confronted with this set-up. After a long think I decided to look for counterplay by sacrificing a pawn: 8...♟e7 9.♟c4! c4 10.dxc4 (after 10.♟xc4 Black regains the pawn with 10...♟xe5 11.♟xe5 ♟a5+) 10...♟b8 11.♟bd2 c5, and the c8 bishop is in the game again. But I still think that Black should look for an improvement at an earlier stage.

9.♟e4 ♜f7

Now the reason for inserting h4 and h5 becomes clear: the knight on g6 is not covered, so Black is forced into an unpleasant choice. After 9...f5 White has achieved exactly what he set out to do: to restrict all counterplay – if Black now wanted to attack pawn e5 with d7-d6, he would be left with an awful pair of doubled pawns.

10.♟h3! ♟c7 11.♟g5+



The point of White's play. Already there is no escape.

11...fxg5 12.♟f3+ ♚g8 13.♟xg6 ♟xe5+ 14.♟f1 gxh4 15.♟g5 ♟a6  
 After 15...♟xb2 White plays 16.♟f7+ ♚h7 17.♟xh5+ ♚g8 18.♟f7+ ♚h7 19.♟h3, and mate on h4 can only be averted by a humiliating retreat of the queen.

16.♟c3 c4 17.d4 ♟xd4 18.♟f7+ ♚h7 19.♟xh5+ ♚g8 20.♟f7+ ♚h7 21.♟f6 ♟xf6 22.♟xf6

Black resigns.

SI 31.4

□ **Ribeiro, Fernando**  
 ■ **Kurajica**

Zaragoza 1996

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♚c6 3.♟b5 e6

Black's main weapon against 3.♟b5, alongside 3...g6. Kurajica has an enormous amount of experience in the 3...e6 complex.

4.♟xc6 bxc6 5.b3 d6

The idea is simple: Black wants to play e6-e5, after which the bishop on b2 has no active function for the moment.

6.♟b2

The big question is whether White can play e6-e5 here. In view of the fact that d6-d5 is not very attractive, accepting the pawn sacrifice is the only option: 6...dxe5 7.♟xe5 ♟d4, with a double attack. But this isn't the end of the story yet, as after 8.♟c4 ♟xa1 9.♟c3 the queen is shut in on a1, and White calmly plays 0-0, followed by ♟f3 and ♟a3. He wins the queen in return for two rooks.

6...e5 7.0-0 f5

Actively played. Black attacks White's only centre pawn; after the swap he will have a colossal centre.

8.exf5 ♚h6 9.♟e1 ♘e7 10.c3 ♟xf5

11.d4 e4 12.dxc5

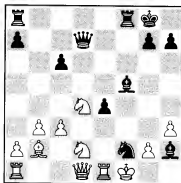
Maybe White would have been better off sticking with the modest 12.♟d2. After 12...d5 13.f3 exf3 14.♟xf3 0-0 the position is approximately equal.

12...0-0 13.♟d4 ♟d7 14.cxd6 ♟xd6 15.♟d2

Already White's position is less than ideal, as all black pieces are active. This makes it difficult for him to find a defence. After 15.♟e2, to cover the f2 square, Black plays 15...c5! 16.♟xf5 ♟xf5 17.h3 e3! 18.♟xe3 (after 18.fxe3? ♟f5 Black is already threatening mate) 18...♟ae8 19.♟d2 (19.♟xe8 ♟xf2+ 20.♟h1 ♟xe8 21.♟xe8+ ♚f7, and Black wins) 19...♟f4 20.♟d1 ♟g3!, and Black is

winning. White has simply not been given enough time to complete his development.

15...♟g4 16.h3 ♟h2+ 17.♟f1 ♟xf2!



Now that the rook on the f-file is becoming actively involved, the game will be decided quickly.

18.♟xf2 e3+ 19.♟xe3 ♟c2+ 20.♟f3 c5! 21.♟xc2 ♟xd2+ 22.♟e2 ♟xf3+ 23.gxf3 ♟f4

White resigns.

SI 31.5

□ **Miroshnichenko**  
 ■ **Arzumian**

Alushta 2002

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♚c6 3.♟b5 e6 4.0-0 ♟e7 5.c3

If White doesn't want to give up his bishop at this early stage, this is the most frequently chosen option. White is aiming for a strong centre, and the set-up looks a lot like that of the Ruy Lopez.

5...a6 6.♟a4 b5 7.♟c2 ♟b7 8.♟e1 ♟c8

A move that doesn't sit well with the rest. 8...d5 is normal, when 9.e5 (9.exd5 ♟xd5 10.d4 exd4 11.cxd4 leads to a well-known type of position in which White relies on an attack and Black blocks the isolated d-pawn with a view to capturing it later) 9...d4

10.♙e4, and White has positioned his bishop correctly. But this manoeuvre has cost time, of course, and the position is equal.

#### 9.a4!

White is creating weaknesses on the queenside; after 9.d4 the point of Black's 8th move becomes clear: 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 ♖b4 11.♙b3 ♗xc1 12.♗xc1 ♖d3 13.♗c3 ♖xe1 14.♗xe1, and a lot of White's attacking potential has evaporated. Both players have equal chances.

#### 9...b4 10.d4 bxc3 11.d5!

If White carelessly sticks back on c3, Black has the same combination again: 11.bxc3 cxd4 12.cxd4 ♖b4 13.♙b3 ♗xc1.

#### 11...cxb2?!

Developing White's bishop, after which Black's own 8th bishop finds itself cramped. For this reason it is safer to return the pawn at once with 11...♖b4 12.♖xc3, and although White has a space advantage, Black has nothing much to worry about.

#### 12.♙xb2 ♖b4 13.♖bd2 ♖g6

It must have pained Black to decide not to capture a second pawn here. After 13...exd5 14.exd5 ♗xd5 he only has to play the bishop to e6 to enable him to continue developing normally. But 15.♙e4! prevents this possibility, and Black won't be able to extricate himself, as witness: 15...♙xe4 (after 15...d6 16.♙c3! ♖xc2? (16...♙xe4 17.♙xe4 leads to practically the same position as after taking on e4 at once) 17.♗xd5 ♗xd5 18.♙f6+ it is mate) 16.♙xe4 d5 17.♙f5 ♗c6 18.a5! f6 19.♙e6, and the black king will not find a way to safety.

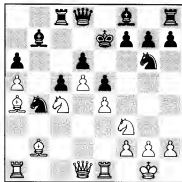
#### 14.♖c4 d6

Black's best bet is 14...f6, but White is already so far ahead in development that I think he is better here.

#### 15.a5! e5

After 15...♙xc2 16.♗xc2 e5 17.♗a4+ ♗d7 18.♗xd7+ ♖xd7 19.♖b6+ ♖c7 20.♖xc8 ♙xc8 White is already ahead in material, and following an assault along the b-file he will win the game.

#### 16.♙a4+ ♖e7



#### 17.♖fxe5!

White is giving his opponent short shrift.

#### 17...♙xe5 18.♙xe5 dxe5 19.d6+ ♖f6

#### 20.♗h5 g5 21.♙a3 ♖g7 22.♙e8

A nice final move. After 22...♗xe8 Black will be mated on g5, while 22...♗f6 23.♖f3 ♗g6 24.♙xf7+ ♖g8 25.♙xf8+ ♖xf8 26.♙xg6 will cost him heart and home. Black resigns.

#### SI 31.7

#### □ Finkel

#### ■ Afek

Budapest 1992

#### 1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♙b5 g6 4.♙xc6 bxc6 5.0-0 ♗g7 6.♙e1 ♖f6

Giving White a simple and sound plan. These days, ♖...h6 is quite common, aiming for a "hedgehog" formation. Black plays 17-f6, ♖h6-f7 and d7-d6. As White usually plays c2-c3 and d2-d4, Black's pieces are ideally suited to repulse the advance e4-e5. It will also be pretty hard now to exchange Black's bishop.

#### 7.e5 d5 8.c4 ♖c7 9.d4 cxd4 10.♗xd4 0-0 11.♗h4 ♖e6 12.♙h6 d5 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.♖c3 ♙b7 15.♙ad1

The result of the opening is quite visible now: White controls the centre and has attacking chances.

#### 15...♙c8 16.♖b5

A good possibility is 16.♙g7 ♖xg7 17.♖d4 ♙c4 18.♖cb5 ♖xd4 19.♖xd4, and White is positionally better.

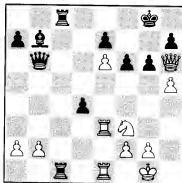
#### 16...♙c4 17.♖bd4 ♖xd4 18.♖xd4 ♙xh6 19.♗xh6 ♗b6 20.♖f3

White relinquishes square d4 and concentrates on the attack. Yet 20.♙d3 was better – the threat is mate on the h-file, of course, so that Black's next move is forced – and after 20...♙c8 21.♗d2 ♙d7 White keeps the better position.

#### 20...♙c2 21.♙e3 f6 22.e6?

This was the time for Black to show his colours. After 22.exf6 ♗xf6 23.♙e6! ♗g7 24.♗e3 ♙xb2 25.♙e7 ♗f6 26.h3 the position is approximately equal.

#### 22...♙fc8 23.h4 ♙c1 24.♙de1 d4 25.h5



White plays his last trump. Now Black even loses after 25...g5 26.♖xg5, so the rest of the game is forced.

#### 25...dxe3 26.hxg6 ♙xe1+ 27.♖h2 ♗d6+ 28.g3 ♙h1+ 29.♖xh1 ♖xf3+ 30.♖h2

Draw. Reciprocal suggestion – the double blunder – is an interesting phenomenon during a chess game. I do not know exactly what the black player overlooked, but the fact is that he is winning. Maybe he only looked at 30...hxg6 31.♗xg6+ ♖h8 32.♗h6+, with perpetual check, but 30...♗x6 wins! There follows

31.♗h7+ ♖f8 32.g7+ ♖e8 33.g8 ♗xg8 34.♗xg8+ ♖d7 35.♗h7 e2 36.♗d3+ ♖c7 37.♖c3+ ♖b8, and Black runs to safety; the passed pawn and the mating threat on h8 are White's downfall.

#### SI 31.7

#### □ Grund

#### ■ Renner

Badensee 2000

#### 1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♙b5 g6 4.0-0 ♗g7 5.♙e1 e5

White is trying to build a broad centre by playing c2-c3 and d2-d4, and the text is intended to prevent this plan.

#### 6.b4

An aggressive approach. The normal sequence is 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.d3, after which White continues with a2-a3 and b2-b4. After swapping on b4 White tries to prove that the half-open a-file and the black pawn on e5 make him slightly better.

#### 6...cxb4

Taking with the knight is not advisable: 6...♖xb4 7.♙b2 f6 (7...a6 8.a3 axb5 9.axb4 ♙a1 10.♙xa1, and White wins the pawn back with advantage) 8.c3 ♖c6 9.d4, and White gets a lot of compensation for the pawn.

#### 7.a3 ♖ge7

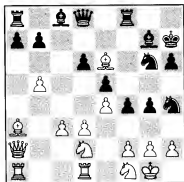
Here, too, Black should proceed with care. After 7...bxa3 8.♙xa3, for example, White's lead in development assumes threatening proportions, and he penetrates on square d6. 8.axb4 0-0 9.d3 d6 10.c3 h6 11.♙c4 ♖h7 12.♗b3 f5

A position is reminiscent of the King's Indian: White is better on the queenside, while Black will have to pin his hopes on a king attack.

#### 13.♖bd2 g5 14.♖f1

After 14.b5 ♖a5 15.♗a3 b6 Black blocks the queenside for the time being.

#### 14...f4 15.♗a2 ♖g6 16.b5 ♖ce7 17.♙a3 g4 18.♖3d2 ♖h4 19.♙e6 ♖eg6 20.♙c7



This looks slow. Taking on c8 first seems better to me. Black has quite a bit of potential on the kingside and now he strikes!

**20...cxc2!! 21.cxc2 Wh4 22.f3?**

Not the best defence, but I also failed to come up with an effective move myself. E.g. 22.f5 Wh3+ 23.fh1 (going to g1) to reserve square h1 for the queen was slightly more stubborn, but 23.fg1 fxf5 24.exf5 fh4 25.Wd5 Ae8 26.Wh1 Mxf5 27.fxd6 e6 28.fxc7 f3+ 29.fxf3 gxf3 30.fg3 g6, and taking on g3 after 31...Mh5, and Black wins) 23...exf5 24.exf5 fh4 25.Wd5 Ae8 (the threat is e5-e4) 26.fg3 fxc3 27.fxc3 e4 28.Mg1 Mxf5, and Black penetrates on f2 and wins. 22.fg1 fxc6 23.Wxc6 f3 also wins. And after 22.fh1 Wh3 23.f5 fxf5 24.exf5 fh4 we find ourselves in a variation already mentioned.

**22...Wh3+ 23.f2 fxc6**

White resigns.

SI 31.8

□ Barle  
■ Jeric

Vrhniko 1995

**1.e4 c5 2.f3 c6 3.f5 g6 4.c3 a6?**

A harmless mistake? No, a capital error, not only because of the tempo wasted but more

importantly because of the irreparable weakening of square b6. Now the queenside is weakened to such an extent that Black cannot prevent the white pieces from penetrating. The normal moves are 4...f6 or 4...g7.  
**5.fxc6 dxc6 6.d3 g7 7.0-0 e5 8.fxe3 We7 9.b4!**

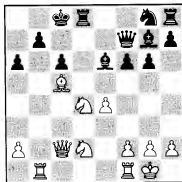
Exploiting the weaknesses on the queenside. The pawn sacrifice opens the files and White also conquers square e5, after which Black will find it hard to castle.

**9...cxb4 10.cxb4 Wxb4 11.fbd2 e6 12.fb1 We7 13.Wc2 f6**

Awaiting developments with 13...fd8 is no option either. After 14.fd1 fd7 15.fb3 fxb3 16.fxb3 White doubles on the b-file, and if Black plays b7-b5, the pawn on c6 will fall. After 13...fh6 White can win the pawn back again with 14.fxe5 fxe5 15.fhx6, and he keeps the better position.

**14.fxc5 Wf7 15.d4!**  
The threat is taking on e5, playing f5 and then taking on e6, after which b7 is unprotected.

**15...exd4 16.fxd4 0-0-0**



This covers the b7 pawn alright, but White's attack has built up too much steam by now.

**17.fxc6 bxc6 18.Wa4 e7 19.fxe7 We7 20.Wxc6+ Wc7 21.Wxe6+ fd7 22.fcf1**

Black resigns.

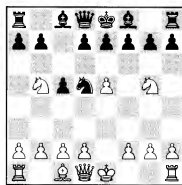
SI 31.9

□ Romero Holmes

■ Soto Perez

Malaga 1998

**1.e4 c5 2.f3 f6 3.c3 c6 4.f5 b5 fd4 5.e5 fxb5 6.fxb5 d5 7.fg5**



This picturesque knight move, first played in Zaitsev-Sveshnikov (1980) has caused Black enormous headaches and is, I believe, the reason why 3...f6 is hardly played against the Rossolimo these days. If you check the database, you will find an enormous number of miniatures.

**7...h6?**

This is certainly not the solution. The fact that White is threatening 8.Wf3, severely limits Black's options: 7...f6 and 7...f5 are his best bets. The road is strewn with pitfalls. 7...f7, for example already loses a pawn after 8.Wh5 g6 9.Wf3 f5 10.fxf6 c.p. fxf6

11.fxc7+ Wxc7 12.Wxf6. And after 7...e6? square d6 is unmercifully exploited with 8.f6!

**8.fxf7?**

Here 8.f6 has shown itself to be a very promising alternative.

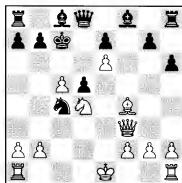
**8...Wxf7 9.Wf3+ Wc6**

This is asking a lot from the black position. Better is 9...f6 10.fxf6 fxf6 11.Wd5+ Wg6 12.0-0 Wb6 13.Wd3+ Wf7 14.f1 e1 Wc6 15.f3 c4 16.Wc4, as in Graf-Gisbrecht, German championship, Saarbrücken 2002. The position looks equal, but after the blunder 16...f5?? 17.Wxc4+ Black resigned.

**10.c4 b6 11.d4 d5**

After 11...exd4 12.fxd4+ Wxe5 13.Wf4+ Black is already mated.

**12.dxc5 fxc4 13.fxd4+ Wd7 14.e6+ Wc7 15.f4+**



Black didn't have the stomach to play on, and it is true that after 15...d6 16.f1! Wb8 17.Wb3 We8 18.fxd6 exd6 19.fxc6+ there is very little hope for him indeed.

# Alapin Variation

The Anti-Sicilian with 2.c3

SI 46.4

□ Vlassov  
■ Martin

Passau 1999

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5

It goes without saying that Black is not going to take the formation of a strong centre with d4 lying down.

3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 ♙c6 6.♗f3 e5 7.♙c3 ♙b4 8.♙d2 ♙xc3 9.♙xc3 e4 10.♙e5 ♙xe5 11.dxe5 ♙e7 12.♖a4+!

One of the many possibilities White has here. 12...♙d7



13.♖b4

13.♖a3 has also been tried here. An example: 13...♙c6 14.♙e2 0-0 15.0-0 ♙g6 16.♗f1 ♙f4 17.♗f1 ♖g6 (Black settles for a draw;

17...♙c6!? looks strong) 18.♗d7 ♙h3+ 19.♖h1 ♙xf2+ 20.♙g1 ♙h3+, and a draw, Howell-Gallagher, England 1984.

13...a5 14.♖a3

And here the moves 14.♖d6 and 14.♖b6 have also been played.

14...♙e6 15.♗d1

15.♖c5!? was a good alternative, according to Vlassov.

15...b5?

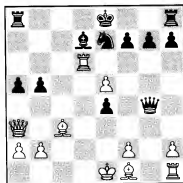
Too ambitious! Better is 15...0-0! 16.♗d6 (or 16.♖d6 ♙c6) 16...♖f5 17.♙e2 ♙c6 18.0-0 ♙g6, and Black was fine in Khachatryan-Mshedlishvili, Erevan 1996.

16.♗d6 ♖f5

16...b4 17.♙xb4 ♖xe5 18.♙c3 doesn't look good for Black either.

17.g4! ♖xg4

17...♖f3 is met by 18.♗d7! ♙xd7 19.♙xb5+, and White wins.



18.e6! fx6!

18...♙xc6 is followed by 19.♙xb5+ ♙f8 20.♖xa5! ♙xa5 21.♗d8, mate! After 18...♙c6 things are not so simple, but 19.♖c5 looks very strong: 19...♙c8 20.♙xb5 ♙xb5 21.♖xb5+ ♙f8 22.♗d7 ♙c8 23.exf7 ♖xd7 24.♗d7 ♙xf7 25.♗g1, or 19...e3 20.♙e2 ♖g2 21.exf7+ ♙xf7 22.♗f1, in both cases with a large advantage for White.

19.♗d7! ♙xd7 20.♙xb5+

Now things go very fast. At this stage, Black probably regretted not having castled on move 15 here!

20...♙c6 21.♙e5! ♙ac8

Or 21...♙c8 22.♖d6+ ♙e8 23.♙xc6+ ♙f7 24.♙xa8 ♙c1+ 25.♙d2 ♙xh1 26.♖d7+, and it's curtains.

22.♖d6+ ♙e8 23.♙xc6+ ♙xc6

24.♖xc6+ ♙f7 25.♖d7+

Black resigned.

SI 46.5

□ Ekström

■ Dumitrace

Erevan Olympiad 1996

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.d4 ♙f6 5.♙f3 ♙g4 6.♖a4+

For 6.♙bd2, see Votava-Lutz. 6.♙e2 is also an option.

6...♙c6

6...♙d7 7.♖b3 cxd4 8.♙c4 ♖e4+ 9.♙f1 e6 10.cxd4 (10.♙bd2 ♖c6 11.♙xd4 ♖c7 12.♙f3 ♙c6 13.♙b5 ♖b8 14.♙e2 a6 also leads to equality) 10...♙c6 11.♙c3 ♖f5 12.♖xb7 ♖b8 13.♖c7 ♙e7 leads to a complicated position with roughly equal prospects for both players.

7.♙c4 ♖d7

After 7...♖e4+ 8.♙e3 ♙xf3 9.♙d2 Black has the tactical trick 9...♙d1, but 10.♗xd1 ♖xg2 11.♙e2 cxd4 12.cxd4 e6 13.♙f3 yielded White good compensation for the pawn in Stevic-Kurajica, Vinkovci 1995.

8.dxc5 ♙xf3 9.gxf3 ♖f5?!

A dubious idea! 9...e6 10.♙e3 ♙d5 11.♙xd5 ♖xd5 12.♖e4 is also good for White, but 9...g6!? may be Black's best bet: 10.♙e3 ♙g7 11.♙d2 0-0 12.0-0 ♖h3, with unclear play, Teitsson-Petursson, Reykjavik 1995.

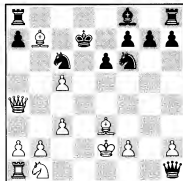
10.♙e3 e6?

This is beautifully refuted, but after 10...♙f3 11.♗g1, followed by 12.♙d2, White has a considerable lead in development.

11.♙a6! ♖f3

There is nothing else.

12.♙xb7 ♖xh1+ 13.♙e2 ♖d7



14.♙d2!

Always nice, such a double rook sacrifice! Black will not survive the white attack.

14...♖xa1

14...♙d5 is met by 15.c4.

15.♙xc6+ ♙e7

Or 15...♙c8 16.♖a6+ ♙d8 17.♖a5+ ♙c8 18.♙f4, and Black might as well resign.

16.♙xa8 ♖xb2 17.♖xa7+ ♙d8

Or 17...♙d7 18.c6.

18.c6 ♙d6

After 18...♖xc3 Black will be mated soon: 19.♙b6+ ♙c8 20.♖b8+ ♙e7 21.♖d8.

19.♖xf7 ♖b5+?!

More stubborn was 19...♙f8, although 20.♖b7 ♖xb7 21.cxb7, followed by the advance of the a-pawn, won't leave Black much hope.

20. ♖e1 ♖e5 21. ♗f1 ♘c5

Otherwise 22. ♖b6+ decides.

22. ♖f3 ♖c7 23. ♘g5 ♖c8 24. ♖b7+?

With 24. ♖f4 White could have finished it at once: 24... ♖xf7 25. ♖xf7 ♖f8 26. ♖b7 mate!

24... ♖b8 25. ♖xc7+

Black resigned. After 25... ♖xc7 26. ♖xe6+ ♖d6 27. ♖xc5 he is left with a hopeless position.

SI 46.5

□ Votava

■ Lutz

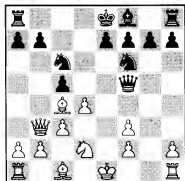
Erevan Olympiad 1996

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.d4 ♖f6 5.♗f3 ♘g4 6.♖bd2 ♖c6 7.♗c4 ♖xf3 8.gxf3

The move 8. ♖a4? runs into the surprisingly strong 8... ♖d1!. After 8. ♖b3 Black has 8... ♖a5, e.g. 9. ♖xd5 ♖xb3 10. ♖xf3 ♖xd5 11. ♖xb3 cxd4 12. ♖xd4 e5, with approximate equality. Shirov-J.Polgar, Dos Hermanas 1997.

8... ♖f5! 9. ♖b3

This double attack on b7 and f7 looks scary, but Black easily solves the problem.



9... 0-0-0 10. ♖xf7 ♖d5! 11. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 12. ♖e4?!

Not a good idea. The game Shaked-De Firmi-

an, US championship 1996, saw 12. ♖g1 e6 13. ♖g3 cxd4 14. ♖e4 ♖e7 15. ♖d2, and now Black would have had a good position after 15... dxc3! 16. ♖xc3 ♖hd8.

12... e6 13. ♖g3

13. ♖xc5? is very bad: 13... ♖xc5 14. dxc5 ♖e5.

13... ♖xf3

The white opening strategy has utterly failed.

14. ♖e3 cxd4 15. ♖xd4

After 15. cxd4 Black has the unpleasant 15... ♖b4+.

15... ♖d6! 16. ♖d1 ♖g2 17. ♖g4 ♖xd4!

17... ♖xg3?! is not clear after 18. 0-0-1, e.g. 18... ♖xd4 19. cxd4 ♖xf2 20. ♖xe6+ ♖d7 21. ♖xg3, and White has counterplay, according to Lutz.

18. cxd4 ♖b4+ 19. ♖e2 ♖f5 20. ♖hf1 ♖hf8

It is all over.

21. ♖d3 ♖b8

Vacating square c8 for the rook.

22. ♖ac1 ♖f3+ 23. ♖c4 ♖d2

White resigned; after 24. ♖cd1 ♖c8+ 25. ♖b5 ♖b3+! 26. ♖xb3 ♖c6 he is mated.

SI 46.6

□ Schmittiel

■ Ernst, Thomas

Gausdal 1987

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.d4 e6 5.♗f3 ♖f6 6.♖bd2

Other possibilities are 6. ♖a3, 6. ♖e3 and 6. ♖e2.

6... ♖c6

To prevent White from making the manoeuvre ♖d2-b3xd4 Black could have played 6... cxd4!? here, e.g. 7. ♗c4 ♖d8 8. ♖xd4 a6 9. 0-0 ♖d6, with a roughly equal position. Thus Chandler.

7. ♖c4 ♖d8

After 7... ♖h5 8. ♖e2! cxd4 9. ♖xd4 ♖d5

10. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 11. 0-0 White has slightly more pleasant play, Ochoa-Van der Sterren, Thessaloniki Olympiad 1984.

8. ♖b3

White can also play 8. dxc5 ♖xc5 9. 0-0 0-0 10. ♖b3 here, and he is slightly better.

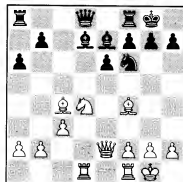
8... cxd4 9. ♖bx4 ♖xd4 10. ♖xd4 ♖e7

In a later game Schmittiel-Bönsch, Altensteig 1991, Black played 10... ♖c7; after 11. ♖e2 a6 12. a4 ♖e7 13. 0-0 0-0 14. ♖g5 ♖d5 15. ♖xe7 ♖xe7 16. f4 ♖d7 17. ♖d3 ♖f5 the position was roughly equal.

11. ♖e2 0-0 12. 0-0 ♖d7

Black has an awkward position. Now 12... ♖c7 is met by 13. ♖b5.

13. ♖f4 a6 14. ♖ad1



This move not only serves to trouble ♖d8, but it also sends the rook on its way to h3!

14... ♖a5 15. ♖fe1 ♖fe8 16. ♖e5! ♖ad8 17. ♖d3 ♖c8 18. ♖h3 ♖d7?

This is refuted, but a better move is hard to find. White was threatening 19. ♖d3 to force a weakening of the castled position.

19. ♖h5 ♖f8

After 19... ♖h6 White plays 20. b4 ♖b6 21. ♖xg7, and wins.

20. ♖f5!

Now the knight gets involved as well!

20... ♖c5

20... exf5? is impossible, of course, in view of

21. ♖xf7+ ♖h8 22. ♖g8 mate.

21. ♖h1 ♖xc4



22. ♖h6! ♖g4

Black could also have allowed the nice mate 22... ♖xh6 23. ♖xh6. What he tries now also leads to mate.

23. ♖g3 ♖f6 24. ♖xf6 exf5 25. ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 26. ♖xg7+ ♖h8 27. ♖g4 mate.

SI 46.9

□ Malaniuk

■ Gorelov

Saratov 1981

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.d4 e6 5.♗f3 ♖f6 6.♖d3 ♖e7 7. 0-0 cxd4 8. cxd4 ♖c6 9. ♖c3 ♖d6

With the text Black hopes to increase the pressure on the white d4-pawn, because after a few moves he can play ... ♖d8. On the other hand, White can try to thwart his plans with ♖b5, of course. Black can also retreat with 9... ♖d8, transferring to positions known from the Queen's Gambit.

10. ♖g5

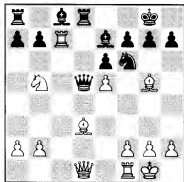
After 10. ♖b5 ♖d8 11. ♖f4 ♖d5 12. ♖g3 0-0 13. ♖c1 a6 14. ♖c3 another Queen's Gam-

bit-like position arises, albeit with a none too common bishop on g3.

**10...0-0 11.♖c1 ♘d8**

Now White must do something about his pawn on d4. He goes for a tactical solution.

**12.♘b5 ♖d7 13.♙e5! ♗xe5 14.♖c7 ♖d5 15.dxe5**



**15...♖xe5!**

15...♖xd3? is bad in view of 16.♖xd3 ♖xd3 17.♖xe7 ♖d7 18.♙d6, and White wins, e.g. 18...♙c6 19.♙xf6 gx6 20.♙f7.

**16.♖xe7 ♖xg5 17.♙xh7+**

And White wins the exchange...

**17...♙xh7 18.♖xd8 ♖d7!**

The point of Black's play. He gives another exchange.

**19.♖xa8 ♙xb5 20.g3**

White allows perpetual check. After the risky-looking 20.♖d1 Black doesn't seem to have much more than a perpetual either: 20...♙c6 21.g3 ♖g4 22.♖d8 ♙d5 (after 22...♖f3? White swaps queens with 23.♖d3+!) 23.♖c1 ♖f3 24.♖xc6 ♖d1+ 25.♙g2 ♙c3+ 26.fxc3 ♖e2+ 27.♙h3 ♖h5+. After 20.♖xb7 ♙xf1 21.♙xf1 ♖c1+ 22.♙e2 ♖c2+ Black also has at least perpetual check.

**20...♙xf1 21.♙xf1 ♖c1+ 22.♙g2 ♖c6+**  
Drawn in view of perpetual check 23.♙f1 ♖c1+ 24.♙g2 ♖c6+ 23.♙h3? is bad in view of 23...♖f3, with the threat of 24...♙g4.

SI 47.9

□ Chiburdanidze

■ Andreeva

Tbilisi 1973

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♙f6 3.e5 ♙d5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.♙f3 ♙c6 7.♙c3 ♙xc3**

This is not really an inferior move, but Black's easiest option is 7...dxe5 8.dxe5 ♙xc3 9.♖xd8+ ♙xd8 10.bxc3 ♖d7, with equality.

**8.bxc3 dxe5!**

But this is dubious! Safer and stronger are 8...e6, 8...♖a5 and 8...d5.



**9.d5!**

Now we see the difference with 7...dxe5! White does not have to take back on e5.

**9...e4**

9...♙b8 10.♙xe5 is no better.

**10.♙g5**

10.dxc6 is also an idea: 10...♖xd1+ 11.♖xd1 exf3 12.♙b5 ♙d8 13.♙f4 ♙g4 (13...e5!? may be a better move) 14.cxb7 fxg2+ 15.♙c2 gxh1 16.♙xh1 ♖c8 17.♙a6 e5 18.♙xe5 ♙c5 19.bxc8 ♖+ ♙xe8, and now, instead of 20.♖d1+! ♙e7 21.♙xg7 ♙g8 22.♙xc8 ♖xg7, with an equal endgame, Montgomery-Rawley, US 1992, White plays the stronger 20.♙xg7 ♙g8 21.♙f6+ ♙c7 22.♙e5+ ♙c6

23.♙d3, with a better endgame for White.

**10...♙e5 11.♙xe4 ♖c7**

11...g6 12.d6! f5 13.♖d5 ♙g7 14.♙h6! ♙xh6 15.♖xe5 ♙f8 16.d7+! turned out to be no improvement, and Black resigned, Tamburro-Russett, correspondence game 1988.

**12.♖d4 ♖d7 13.♙a3**

With the threat of 14.d6.

**13...f6 14.d6 ♖c6**

Or 14...exd6 15.♙xd6+, with advantage for White.

**15.dxe7 ♙xe7 16.♙xe7 ♙xe7 17.♖b4+ ♙f7 18.f4 ♖he8?**

Black is trying a trick based on the pin on ♙e4, but unfortunately it won't wash. Black should have played 18...♙g4, although the result doesn't look too solid either: 19.♙d6+ ♙g6 20.♙d3+ f5 21.0-0.

**19.fxex5 ♙xe5 20.0-0-0! ♖xe4 21.♙xd7+**

The simple refutation.

**21...♙e8 22.♖e7+!**

Black resigned in view of 22...♖xe7 23.♙b5.

SI 47.10

□ Sveshnikov

■ Rashkovsky

Sochi 1976

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♙f6 3.e5 ♙d5 4.d4 cxd4 5.♙f3 ♙c6 6.cxd4 d6 7.♙c4 e6**

For 7...♙b6, see the game Pavasovic-Jelen.

**8.0-0 ♙e7 9.♖e2 0-0 10.♙c3 ♙xc3 11.bxc3 d5!**

This is less good on principle, as Black robs himself of counterplay. After the stronger 11...dxe5 12.dxe5 ♖c7 13.♙d3 ♙d7 14.♖c4 g6 chances would be about equal.

**12.♙d3 ♙a5?!**

Too slow; 12...♙d7 or 12...f5 13.ex6 e.p. ♙f6 may be better possibilities.



**13.h4! ♙xh4**

Should Black take the pawn? After 13...♙d7 White attacks with 14.♙g5. After the text White will direct his attack along the h-file.

**14.g3 ♙e7 15.♙g2 f6 16.exf6 ♙xf6**

No stronger is 16...gx6 in view of 17.♙h1 ♙f7 (or 17...f5 18.♙e5) 18.♙e5! fx5 19.♙xh7+! ♙xh7 20.♙xh7 ♙xh7 21.♖h5+ ♙g8 22.♖h6+ ♙h8 23.♙a3.

**17.♖h1 g6**

17...h6 is also met by 18.♙e5.

**18.♙e5 ♙xe5**

After 18...♙d7? White wins with 19.♙xh7! ♙xe5 20.dxe5 ♙xh7 21.♖h5+.

**19.dxe5 ♙f7 20.♖g4 ♙c6**

20...♙g7 is of course met by 21.♙h6.

**21.♙xg6!?**

White strikes. He could also have opted for a more staid approach with 21.♙f4!?

**21...hxg6 22.♖xg6+ ♙g7 23.♖h5 ♙f8?**  
23...♙d7!? 24.♙h6! (after 24.♙a3 ♖e8

25.♖h8+ ♙f7 26.♖h5+ White has no more than perpetual check) 24...♖e8 (after 24...♙e8? White wins with 25.♖h3 ♙g6 26.♙e3 ♙f7 27.♖h8) 25.♖xg7 ♖xh5 26.♙xh5 ♙xg7 27.♙h1 offers better prospects. The position looks good for White, but Black can still put up a fight. After the text he succumbs quickly.

**24.♙h4 ♙e7 25.♙a3!**

Black resigned in view of 25...♙d7 26.♖h8+ ♙f7 27.♙f4+.

□ Pavasovic

■ Jelen

Ljubljana 1997

1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♟f6 3.e5 ♟d5 4.d4 cxd4  
5.♟f3 ♟c6 6.cxd4 d6 7.♟c4 ♟b6  
8.♟b3

White can also play 8.♟b5.

8...dxe5

A safe alternative is 8...e6, e.g. 9.g♟g5 ♟e7  
10.♟xe7 ♟xe7 11.♟e2 dxe5 12.dxe5 ♟d7,  
with approximate equality. V.Ivanov-Kravtsov,  
Moscow 1995.

9.d5! ♟a5 10.♟c3 ♟xb3 11.♟xb3 e6

After 11...g6 12.♟xe5 ♟g7 13.♟f4 0-0  
14.♟d1 White also has the slightly more pleasant  
position.

12.♟xe5 exd5

After 12...♟xd5 13.♟b5+ ♟d7 14.♟xb7 ♟c8  
15.♟xc8+ ♟xc8 16.♟xd7 ♟xd7 17.♟xd5  
exd5 18.♟c3 the endgame favours White, but  
14...♟b4!? (instead of 14...♟c8) may be an  
improvement for Black. The point is 15.♟d7  
♟c8!1, and Black has good play, Vlassov-Kargin,  
Moscow 1999. According to Gallagher,  
White's best reply may be 15.0-0!?.

13.♟e3 ♟d6 14.♟b5+ ♟f8!?



A remarkable move! After 14...♟d7 15.♟d7  
♟xd7 16.0-0-0 ♟xb5 17.♟xb5 ♟d7 18.♟xb6

axb6 19.♟xd5 ♟c6 (thus far V.Ivanov-Kri-  
ventsov, Moscow 1994), and now 20.♟hd1,  
White is slightly better. Thus Chandler.  
15.0-0-0! ♟e6

The piece sacrifice is correct, as witness:  
15...♟xe5?! 16.♟xd5, and now 16...♟d7?  
17.♟b4+ ♟e8 18.♟he1, winning, or 16...♟d6  
17.♟xb6 axb6 (after 17...♟c7+ 18.♟b1 axb6  
19.♟xb6 ♟e7 20.♟xd6 ♟e4+ 21.♟a1 ♟e6  
22.a3 ♟xe2 23.♟hd1 White should be better)  
18.♟xb6 ♟d7 19.♟xd6 ♟xb5 20.♟xd8+  
(20...♟xd8!?) may also be worth considering)  
20...♟x8 21.♟xd8, and the endgame favours  
White, although Black may have drawing chances  
because of the opposite-coloured bishops.

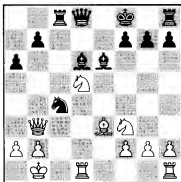
16.♟f3

Good for Black is 16.f4 ♟xe5 17.fxe5 h6  
18.h4 ♟g8 19.♟b1 ♟c7 20.♟xb6 ♟xb6  
21.♟xb6 axb6 22.♟xd5 ♟a5, Van der  
Werf-Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 1995.

16...♟c8 17.♟b1 ♟c4!?

Black can also go 17...♟c6, as 18.♟d4 can be  
met by 18...♟c4; but the text is sharper.

18.♟xd5 a6 19.♟b3



19...♟a5

Now the game will be liquidated to an equal  
position.

After the game the computer Fritz indicated  
19...♟f5+ 20.♟a1 ♟c2!, but after 21.♟xb7  
(21.♟xc2 ♟xe3 22.♟xc8 ♟xc8 23.♟xc3 is  
also unclear) 21...♟d1 22.♟d1 the position

is highly unclear – does White have compen-  
sation for the exchange?

20.♟b6 ♟xb6 21.♟xb6 ♟xb6 22.♟xb6  
♟c6 23.♟d5

Draw.

## SI 47.15

□ Finkel

■ Maryasin

Israel 1996

1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♟f6 3.e5 ♟d5 4.♟f3 ♟c6  
5.♟c4 ♟b6 6.♟b3 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4  
♟g7 9.d5!?

An interesting pawn sacrifice. For 9.♟c3, see  
the game Rozentalis-Bologan.

9...♟xe5 10.♟xe5 ♟xe5 11.♟h6



11...e6

After 11...♟xb2 12.♟d2, 12...♟xa1?! is ris-  
ky: 13.♟xa1 f6 14.d6! e6 15.♟e4 ♟f7 16.g4  
♟d5 17.g5 b5 18.♟xd5 exd5 19.♟xf6, with  
advantage for White, according to Finkel's  
analysis. But 12...d6 13.♟b1 ♟c3 (after  
13...♟e5 or 13...♟f6 the position is also un-  
clear) 14.0-0 ♟xd2 15.♟xd2 f6 16.♟f4 ♟d7  
17.♟a4 ♟f7 leads to an unclear position,  
Weiss-Valenzuela, Chilean championship  
1998. Does White have compensation for the

two pawns? Instead of the text, Black could  
also try 11...d6.

12.♟c3 ♟h4 13.♟d2 ♟c4?

Obvious but bad. Stronger is Finkel's sugges-  
tion 13...f6; after 14.dxe6 dxe6 15.0-0-0, and  
now 15...♟f7 or 15...♟d7, the position is un-  
clear.

14.♟xc4 ♟xc4 15.♟c1 b6 16.f4 ♟f6  
17.♟b1 ♟b4

There is nothing else.

18.a3! ♟xc3

After 18...♟xb3 Finkel has indicated the fol-  
lowing winning line: 19.♟e4 ♟e7 20.d6 ♟f8  
(20...♟d8 21.♟d4) 21.0-0! ♟xb6 22.♟d4  
♟g8 23.♟f6+ ♟f8 24.♟xh7+ ♟e8 25.♟f6  
♟f8 26.♟g5 ♟d6 27.♟f6+ ♟f8 28.♟h6+  
♟g7 29.♟h8+ ♟e7 30.♟xg7 ♟c5+ 31.♟xc5!  
bxc5 32.♟g8+ ♟d6 33.♟e5+ ♟c6 34.♟e7+  
♟b6 35.♟d6+ ♟b5 36.a4+. Beautiful!

19.♟xc3 ♟e4+ 20.♟e1! ♟b1+ 21.♟f2  
♟f5

Or 21...♟xh1 22.♟d4! ♟g8 23.♟f6 ♟d1  
24.♟g5 ♟f8 25.♟e7+ ♟g7 26.♟f6+ ♟h6  
27.♟h3+, and it's all over.

22.♟c3 ♟g8 23.♟e5 ♟g4 24.♟g5 f5

24...f6 won't work either: 25.♟e6+! dxe6  
26.♟xf6.

25.h3

Black resigned.

## SI 47.15

□ Rozentalis

■ Bologan

Belfort 1994

1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♟f6 3.e5 ♟d5 4.♟f3 ♟c6  
5.♟c4 ♟b6 6.♟b3 g6  
Good alternatives are 6...d6 and 6...c4.

7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♟g7 9.♟c3

For 9.d5!?, see the game Finkel-Maryasin.

9...0-0 10.h4!?

This move is probably too ambitious, but  
after simply 10.0-0 11.exd6 ♟xd6 Black has



good play.

**10...d5! 11.h5 ♠g4 12.hxg6**

No stronger is 12.♖h4 gxh5 13.♙c2 f5 14.a3 e6 15.♖h1 ♙c8, with good play for Black, Markovic-Matulovic, Tivat 1995.

But maybe 12.♙e2?? is a good option, when 12...gxh5?! is met by 13.♙g3 and 12...♙xh5?! is met by the exchange sacrifice 13.♖xh5; according to Bologan, 12...f6! is the correct reply.

**12...fxg6 13.♙e3**

13.♖xh7 looks nice, but after 13...♙xf3 14.♖xg7+ ♗xg7 15.gxf3 e6, followed by 16...♖h4, Black is better.

**13...a5 14.a3**

14.a4 is met by 14...♙b4.

**14...e6 15.♖e2 a4 16.♙c2**

After 16.♙a2 Black plays 16...♙a5, followed by ...♙b3 or ...♙ac4.

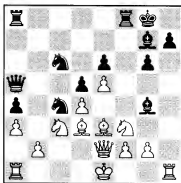
**16...♙c4! 17.♙d3**

White is in trouble, as 17.♙xa4? costs material in view of 17...♖xa4 18.♙xa4 ♖a5+, and 17.♙xa4 is met strongly by 17...♖b6!, e.g. 18.0-0-0 ♖xf3! 19.gxf3 ♙xf3 20.♖c2 ♙xh1 21.♖xh1 ♙xd4, or 18.♖b1 ♙xf3 19.gxf3 ♙xd4, with advantage to Black.

After 17.0-0-0 Black immediately attacks the

white castled position with 17...b5!, according to Bologan.

**17...b5 18.♙xb5 ♖a5+ 19.♙c3**



**19...♙4xe5!**

A devastating knight sacrifice!

**20.dxe5 ♙xe5 21.♙d2**

After 21.0-0-0 Black wins with 21...♙xf3 22.gxf3 ♙xf3 23.♖c2 ♙xh1 24.♖xh1 ♙ac8 25.♖b1 d4, Bologan.

**21...♖xf3! 22.gxf3 ♙xf3 23.♖f1 ♙xh1 24.0-0-0 ♙f3 25.♖e1 ♙xd3+ 26.♖xd3 ♙g4**

White resigned. A model execution!

## Various Systems

SI 1.4

□ Dvoretzky

■ Pohl

Vijandri 1972

**1.e4 c5 2.♙f3 d6 3.♙b5+**

This bishop check is known as the Moscow variation.

**3...♙d7**

The correct way to generate tension in the position, 3...♙c6 transposes to the Rossolimo variation.

**4.d4 cxd4**

4...♙f6 is more common here. White replies 5.♙c3 or 5.0-0, a pawn sacrifice.

**5.♖xd4 ♙f6 6.♙g5 e6**

With the bishop on g5 the push e7-e5 cannot be recommended.

**7.♙c3 ♙e7 8.0-0-0**

White pins all his hopes on building up a lead in development. 8.e5 dxe5 9.♙xe5 turns out to be premature in view of the cool 9...0-0! (9...h6?! 10.♙xf6 ♙xf6 11.0-0-0 0-0 12.♙xd7 fails to equalise) 10.♙xd7, and now the improbable 10...♙xd7 11.♙xf6 ♙xf6 12.♖xd7 ♖b6. White can't save his piece, e.g. 13.♙a4 ♖a5+ 14.e3 a6 or 13.0-0-0 ♙xc3 14.bxc3 ♙ad8 15.♖e7 ♙xd1+ 16.♙xd1 ♖xb5 17.♙d8 ♖f1+ 18.♖b2 ♖1-2 Palciauskas-Maeder, cr 1984.

8.♙xf6 gxf6 9.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 10.0-0-0 (Christiansen-Kreiman, Philadelphia 1999) also turned out to be premature after 10...h5! 11.♖b1 a5! 12.♖h1 0-0 13.e5 d5 14.exf6 ♙xf6 15.♙e5 ♙g7. The black bishop pair is very strong.

**8...0-0 9.♖he1**

Again it is too early for direct action, although the game Xu Yuhua-Zhao Xue, HeiBei 2001, gives a different picture. After 9.♙xd7 ♙xd7 10.e5 dxe5 11.♙xe5 ♙e8? 12.♖h4! ♖b6 (12...♙d5 13.♙xe7 ♖xe7 14.♖xe7 ♙xe7 15.♙d7 ♙xd7 16.♙xd7 isn't much good either) 13.♙d3 (13.♙e4 ♙xe4 14.♙xe7 ♙xf2 15.♙c4!) 13...♙d8? 14.♖h3! the youthful black player already had to resign. The white attack is unstoppable. After 11...♙c6!, on the other hand, Black has little to fear.

**9...♖a5**

9...♙e5 10.e5 dxe5 11.♖h4 looks more dangerous for Black. An important question is whether White can play 10.♙xd7 ♙xd7 11.♙xf6 gxf6 12.e5, as in the game, after the more modest 9...♙c7.

**10.♙xd7 ♙xd7 11.♙xf6 gxf6**

11...♙xf6 12.e5 ♙e7 13.exd6 ♙f6 14.♙e5 only serves to aggravate Black's problems.

**12.e5 fxe5 13.♙xe5**



### 13...xf8 14.xd7

Despite a long think, Dvoretzky failed to find the decisive combination. After 14.xd5!? dxe5! 15.xe7+ f8 16.xd6 b5!, Black surprisingly holds. 14. g4+ f8 15.xd7+ xd7 16.d5 also looks promising (16...exd5? 17.xd7 e8 18.fb1 d4 19.fb5!), but Black has 16...xb6!, e.g. 17.xe6! fxe6 18.xe6 c6! 19.f5+ g7 20.f7+ fh8. You need a player like Tal to find the death blow. He discovered 14. g4+!! f8, and now the devastating 15.f7! f7 16.d5!!, cutting off the fifth rank. After 16...a6 17.f5+! or 16...exd5 17.fh5+ f8 18.fh6+ White wins at once.

### 14...xd7 15.e4

White's best bet, as neither 15.d3 g5+ 16.f1 f6 nor 15.e3 g5 16.f4 e5 17.xe5 xe5 18.xe5 dxe5 19.xd7 xf4+ strikes home.

### 15...h7!

With 15...xa2! Black could have put White on the spot.

### 16.e3 h7 17.f3! f8 18.f1 b6 19.f3 g5?

The decisive error. After 19...h5! Black's disadvantage remains manageable.

### 20.d3 f5 21.fg5+ hgx5 22.h3+ g7

22...g6 23.f2!, and White penetrates on h5. 23.f3! f4 24.f6 f5 25.fh6+ f7 26.fxd6 Black resigned.

Sixteen years later, Saint John 1988, Dvoretzky again faced the diagrammed position, this time against the Norwegian player Scholseth, who went for 13...e6, which allows White an attack that is as good as winning after 14.f6 bxc6 15.d3. But Dvoretzky slipped up big time by playing 14.d3?? at once, thinking that 14...dxe5 15.f5 would finish the game. That is true enough, except that it would finish it for Black, as White suddenly has no good moves left after 15...fb4!

### SI 1.9

□ Karakljajic

■ Nikolic, Stanimir

Pristina 1973

### 1.e4 c5 2.f3 d6 3.b5+ d7 4.xd7+ xd7

4...xd7 is an alternative played repeatedly by Kasparov. It leads to less drawish positions.

### 5.c4

Intending to assume the Maroczy central position with 5...c6 6.d4 cxd4 7.fxd4. White has a pleasant space advantage.

### 5...g4?

An unwarranted attempt to exploit 5.c4. In the game Stean-Geller, Moscow 1975, Black launched the queen sortie a move later: 5...c6 6.d4 g4 7.d5 xe4+ 8.e3 d4 9.f4+ b5 10.f6! c2+ 11.fxd2 f3+! 12.f1 b8 13.fxa7 d8 14.f7 xa1 15.f6+ d7 16.f8c8+, and a draw through perpetual check. But 11.f3! instead of 11.fxd2! is stronger: 11...d8 12.fxb5+ d7 13.f2bd2 g6 (13...f3c3+ 14.fxc3 xc3 is met strongly by 15.f1, followed by f3c3-b3) 14.f1 f3c3+ 15.f3c3 f6 16.b4! e4 17.fxe4 xe4 18.bxc5, with advantage for White, Baklan-Paenick, German Bundesliga 1998.

### 6.0-0 xe4 7.d4 c6?

This makes for a quick finish, but 7...cxd4 isn't everything either. In Hort-Rajkovic, Sarajevo 1972, there followed 8.fxd4 f6 9.f3c3 g4 10.f4a+ d7 11.fdb5 f6 12.f5g5 a6 13.f3d5 e8 14.f6b6.

### 8.f3c3 g4 9.f2b5 d7 10.fxc5 dxc5 11.f4 0-0-0

After 11...xd1 12.fxd1, 13.f7c7+, winning the exchange, cannot be parried.

### 12.f4 f5 13.f3g3 a6 14.fad1 xd1

Both here and on the next move, f5 was untouchable, of course, in view of 15.f8a8+, and mate.

### 15.fxd1

Threatening 16.f7a1+ f7a7 17.f8e8 mate.

### 15...f6



### 16.f6a5!

A nice final move! Black can choose between 16...f5a5 17.f6a7 mate, and 16...f6e8 17.f8d8! fxd8 18.f6a7 mate. So he resigned.

### SI 1.9

□ Magomedov

■ Isaev

Dushanbe 1999

### 1.e4 c5 2.f3 d6 3.b5+ d7 4.xd7+ xd7 5.c4 c6 6.f3c3 g6 7.d4 g7

After 7...cxd4 8.f3c3 g7 9.f3c3 f6 10.f3 White is slightly better because of his space advantage. Whether the text is a better plan is doubtful, however.

### 8.d5 xc3+?!

This was the idea behind 7...g7: the white pawn formation is weakened. A slightly dubious idea - Black cannot really do without his king's bishop.

### 9.bxc3 ca5 10.f2d2 e5 11.0-0!

In Ponomariov-Bologan, Belfort 1998, 11.f3e6!? xe6 12.f4a+ c6 13.f1b1 0-0-0 14.0-0 g7 turned out to be good for Black.

### 11...e7

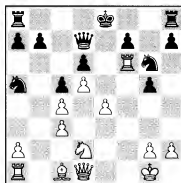
After 11...f6, 12.f4! is also strong: 12...xf4 13.f4 f5 14.f5 15.e1! dxe5 16.e4, with very good chances for White, Ru-

blevsky-Martinovic, Vrnjacka Banja 1999.

### 12.f4! exf4 13.fxf4 g5?!

Here 13...0-0 was not an attractive option, although probably better than the clumsy plan Black is attempting now.

### 14.f6 g6



### 15.e5!

This more or less refutes Black's idea. The white knight will cause Black no end of trouble from square e4.

### 15...xe5

15...dxe5 16.f6e4 should also be very good for White.

### 16.f6e4 axc4 17.f6e6+!

17.f6e6 c7 18.f4a+ f8 19.f6h6! was pretty good as well, but the text is probably White's strongest option.

### 17...f8

After 17...f6e6 White wins the queen with 18.f6f6+, while 17...f8 18.f5g5+ f8 19.fxd6+ fxd6 20.f5e5 is also very good for White.

### 18.f1 h6 19.h4 g7 20.f6g5! fxe6

Black asks for proof. After 20...hxg5, by the way, 21.f6f6+ g8 22.f5g5+ f8 23.f6f6 would have won for White.

### 21.gxh6+ xh6

Or 21...g6 22.f6f6+ f7 23.f6e6 c7 24.f5f5+

### 22.f6h6+ xh6 23.f6f6+ f7

23...f6e6 is met by 24.f7f2, threatening

25.♖h1, mate.

**24. ♖h4+! ♔g7 25. ♖f1! ♚f8**

After 25...♚d8 26.♒f6 ♖h8 27. ♖g5+ Black is also finished.

**26. ♒f6 ♚xf6 27. ♖xf6+ ♔g8**

Or 27...♖h7 28.♒x6 ♖g7 29. e7.

**28. ♖f8+ ♔h7 29. dxe6 ♖xe6 30. ♚f6**

**♒f3+ 31. ♚xf3 ♖e1+ 32. ♔h2 ♖e5+**

**33. ♚g3**

And Black resigned.

## SI 2.2

□ Yermolinsky

■ Shabalov

US Championship, Long Beach 1993

**1.e4 c5 2.♒f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4**

This is called the Hungarian variation.

**4...a6**

Preparing for ♒c6. Black wants to chase the dominant queen from d4.

**5.♗e3 ♒c6**

Everything according to plan. Another idea is 5...♒d7, on the one hand to watch square b6 and on the other to prepare for the central advance 7...e5 after 6.♒c3 ♒g6 7.0-0-0. The move 7.e5 is powerless to prevent this plan in view of 7...dxe5 8.♒xe5 ♒xe5 9.♖xe5 ♒g4. The critical continuation is 7.♗c4!

**6. ♖d2 ♒f6 7. ♒c3 e6 8.0-0-0 b5!?**

Moving pawns when you're behind in development is asking for trouble. The same goes for queen moves. A gruesome example is 8...♖c7?! 9.♒f4 ♒e5? 10.♒xe5 dxe5 11.♒xe5! 1-0 Vasiukov-Yasseen, Doha 1992. Black's most solid option is 8...♒e7 and to meet 9.♒f4 with 9...♒g4.

**9.e5! dxe5 10. ♖xd8+ ♒xd8 11.0.♖b5!**

The queen swap has only exacerbated Black's problems. There is an almost total lack of defenders, so White strikes. The alternative sacrifice 11.♒xb5+ looks promising after 11...axb5 12.♒xb5 ♒d5 (12...♚a5? 13.♚xd8+ ♔xd8 14.♒b6+ won't work)

13.♚xd5 exd5 14.♒c7+ ♔e7 15.♒xa8 d4 16.♒d1, but Black has something better. He returns a pawn with 11...♒d7 12.♒xd7+ ♒xd7, completing his development. White has good passed pawns on the queenside, Black has strong defended pawns in the centre.

**11...axb5 12.♒xb5+ ♒d7 13.♚xd7 ♒xd7 14.♒d1**

Involve more pieces is the motto. 14.♒xe5 ♒d6 15.♒xd7+ ♔e7 or 15.♒xd7 ♚a5 are premature. **14...♚a5**

In Fieandt-Hartikainen, Helsinki 1995, it turned out that Black cannot afford to play 14...♚a2: 15.♚xd7 ♚a1+ 16.♔d2 ♒b4+ 17.♒c3 ♚a5 18.♒b6! 0-0 19.♒xa5 ♒xa5 20.♒xe5, and the threat of 21.♒c4 forced Black to resign. The bishop is lost.

**15. ♒xd7+ ♔e7 16. ♒b6**

16.c4! is an attempt to get more than a simple endgame. Whether that will work after 16...e4 17.♒d2 ♚a2 18.♔b1 ♚xb2+ 19.♔xb2 ♔xd7 20.♒xe4+ ♔c8 is the big question, according to Yermolinsky.

**16...♒d5 17.♚xd5 exd5 18.♒xe5**



A remarkable endgame. White has two pawns and a strong bishop pair for an exchange. Moreover, the black pieces are reduced to passivity for the moment, while an attempt to win a piece with 18...f6?! fails to 19.♒c5 mate!

**18...♒e6!**

An improvement compared to Dolmatov-Yermolinsky, Moscow 1977, where Black failed to stop the pawns after 18...♔d6 19.♒xd8 ♔xe5 20.♒b6 ♔d6 21.♒b5.

**19. ♒b5 g6 20.a4 ♒g7 21. ♒c6+ ♔d6 22.a5 ♒c8 23. ♒a7 ♚a8 24. ♒a7?**

Giving away the advantage that he could have kept with 24.c3 (♒d4 must be prevented). After 24...♒f6! 25.♒c6 ♒c8, 26.a6! is worth a try: 26...♚xc6 27.a7 ♒c8 (27...♒xb6? 28.a8 ♖xb5 29.♖a6+ ♔c5 30.b4+ losses) 28.♒a6 ♒e8 29.♒b7, 26...d4!? looks like a better way to save himself.

**24...♒c5! 25.♒b5+ ♔c6 26.♒d4++**

After 26.♒c7+?! ♒xa4 27.♒xa8 ♒xb2+ White should be the one to watch out; hence his flight into perpetual check.

**26...♔d6 27. ♒b5+ ♔c6 28. ♒a7++ ♔d6**

Draw.

## SI 2.6

□ Magomedov

■ Nazarov

Dushanbe 1999

**1.e4 c5 2.♒f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♒c6**

This gives Black the bishop pair. White's compensation is his lead in development and the super-fast deployment of his pieces.

**5. ♒b5 ♒d7 6. ♖xc6 ♒xc6 7. ♒c3 ♒f6**

**8. ♒g5 e6 9.0-0-0 ♒e7 10. ♖d3**

The most common move is 10.♚h1! See the games Grottko-Kalinichenko and Vasiukov-Van Wely.

**10...♚a5 11. ♒d2 ♖c7 12. ♒d4 a6 13.f4 b5**

The variation White has opted for offers roughly equal chances. White has possibilities on the kingside, Black on the queenside, in other words, a typical Sicilian. Instead of the text, 13...0-0-0 should also be quite playable.

**14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 ♒d7 16. ♒xc6**

Another possibility is 16.♒f4 ♒b7 17.♖g3, after which Topalov had suggested 17...0-0!?: after 18.♒b6 g6 19.♒xf8 ♒xf8 Black's two bishops give him compensation for the exchange. Besides, pawn e5 is weak.

**16...♖xc6 17. ♖g3 g6**

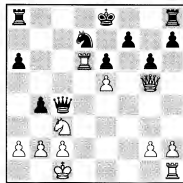
Maybe Black could just have allowed the capture on g7. Both 17...b4!? 18.♖xg7 ♚f8 19.♒b1 ♒c8 and 17...♒c8! 18.♖xg7 ♚f8 19.♖xh7 b4 look promising for him.

**18. ♒g5 ♒g5+ 19. ♖xg5 b4 20. ♒d6**

The earlier game Kasimdzhanov-Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 1999, saw 20.♒e2 ♒c8 21.♒d4 ♖c4 22.♔b1 0-0, with an approximately equal position. The text quickly leads to success, but it is quite doubtful whether it is really stronger than 20.♒e2.

**20...♖c4?**

The correct reply was 20...♖c5!, when 21.♒d5 exd5 22.e6 is not possible because ♒d6 is hanging. 21.♒e4 ♖xe4 22.♖h4 g5! 23.♖e1 ♒c5! Also favours Black, and 21.♒xd7 bxc3?! 22.♒d3 cxb2+ 23.♔b1 ♒c8 seems to be good for Black as well. Thus Magomedov's analyses. The text is refuted.



**21. ♒d5! exd5 22.e6 0-0**

Other moves also lose: 22...♒c5 23.♒f7+ ♔e7 24.♖f6+ ♔g8 25.♒f1 d4 26.♒d8+ ♚xd8 27.♖xd8+ ♔g7 28.♖f6+ ♔h6 29.♒f4 or 22...♒f8 23.♒f7+ ♔x7 24.♖f6+ ♔g8 25.♒f1 d4 26.♒c6! ♖d5 27.♒c7 ♒d7

28. ♖e7. Again according to Magomedov. **23.exd7 ♖ad8 24. ♔d1 ♖e2 25. ♖xd5** And Black resigned.

SI 2.8

- Grottké  
 Kalinichev

Potsdam 1986

**1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. ♔b5+ ♗c6 4.d4 cxd4 5. ♖xd4 ♔d7 6. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 7. ♗c3 ♗f6 8. ♔g5 e6 9.0-0-0 ♔e7 10. ♚he1 0-0 11. ♖d2**

For 11. ♖b1, see the game Vasiukov-Van Wely.

**11... ♖c7 12. ♗d4 b5!?**

A pawn sacrifice; but in the Sicilian neither White nor Black would balk at this. An example with 12... ♚fd8 is Yusupov-Psakhis, Moscow 1981: 13.f4 h6 14.h4 b5 15. ♔e3 (after 15. ♗xc6 ♖xb5 16. ♗xb5 ♖c4 Black has compensation) 15...b4 16. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 17. ♗ce2 a5 18. ♚h1 h5, with unclear play. **13. ♗xc6**

After 13. ♗dxb5 ♖xb5 14. ♗xb5 ♖c4 15. ♗c3 ♚ab8 Black has excellent compensation for the pawn.

**13... ♖xc6 14. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 15. ♖xd6 ♖c4** Now Black should also have good compensation for his pawn.

**16. ♖d3**

After 16.e5 Black could have played 16... ♚fd8 17. ♖a6 ♖f4+ 18. ♖b1 ♖xc5.

**16... ♖c5!? 17. ♖xb5!?**

A better move is 17.f4. In Yandemirov-Ruck, Budapest 1993, there followed 17... ♚fd8 18. ♖f3! (after 18. ♖xb5! ♚xd1+ 19. ♖xd1 ♚d8+ 20. ♖c1 ♖f2 Black has good play) 18...b4 19. ♗a4 ♖c6 20.b3 ♖c3 21. ♖f3 ♚xd1+ 22. ♖xd1, and White eventually managed to win, although the position is still difficult enough. Instead of 20... ♖c3, 20... ♔e5! 21.f5 ♚ac8 22. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 and 20... ♚ac8! 21. ♚xd8+ ♖xd8 22. ♖d3 ♖c7 seem stronger

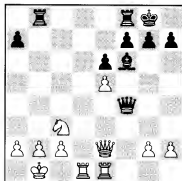
options, and in both cases Black still has enough compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

**17... ♖xf2 18.e5 ♚ab8 19. ♖e2**

Or 19. ♖a5 ♔g5+ 20. ♖b1 ♔d2, with very good play for Black.

**19... ♖f4+ 20. ♖b1!?**

Relatively better was 20. ♖e3 ♖xe5 21. ♖xf4 ♖xf4+ 22. ♖b1 ♖xh2, although White has little to look forward to. After the text Black plans a tactical strike.



**20... ♚xb2! 21. ♖a1**

After 21. ♖xb2 Black plays 21... ♖b4+ 22. ♖c1 ♔g5+, and wins.

**21... ♚h4 22. ♖e4?**

This loses at once, but 22.g3 ♖b4 23. ♖d3 ♚b8 24. ♖d4 ♖xd4 25. ♚xd4 ♚xc2 was equally hopeless.

**22... ♖xe1! 23. ♖xf4 ♖xc3 24. ♖g3 ♚b3+**

And White resigned.

SI 2.9

- Vasiukov  
 Van Wely

Moscow 2002

**1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♗c6 5. ♔b5 ♔d7 6. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 7. ♗c3 ♗f6 8. ♔g5 e6 9.0-0-0 ♔e7 10. ♚he1 0-0**

**11. ♖b1 ♖a5**

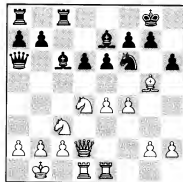
A better move may be 11... ♖c7, as in Grottké-Kalinichev. An example is Zahariev-Rogers, Agios Nikolaos 1995: 12. ♖d2 ♚f8 13. ♗d4 b5 14. ♗xc6 (14. ♗cxb5?! ♖xb5 15. ♗xb5 ♖c5 is very promising for Black, e.g. 16. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 17. ♗xd6 ♚ab8, Kallai-Perevnyi, Kecskemet 1981; after 14.b3 b4 15. ♗ce2 a5 Black also has counterplay) 14... ♖xc6 15. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 16. ♖xd6 ♖xc3 17. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 18. ♚xc3 ♚xc3 19. ♔d7 g5, with an equal endgame.

**12. ♖d2 ♖a6**

White was already threatening 13. ♗d5. After 12... ♖b6 13. ♗d4, 12... ♚f8 13. ♗d4 and 12... ♚fd8 13. ♗d4 White is also slightly better, as the theory books will tell you.

**13. ♗d4 ♚f8 14.f4 h6**

Because this is not really attacking the bishop, 14...b5! may be a better option.



**15.h4!**

After 15. ♚h4? Black could have played 15... ♗xe4!. The text is more or less a standard sacrifice. It is unlikely that Black will survive the white attack along the h-file after 15... ♚g5? 16. ♚g5 ♗d7 17. ♚h1.

**15... ♖c4!?**

15...b5!? is probably better. In Gipstis-R.Sutkus, correspondence game 1996, Black was far from bad after 16. ♖d3 ♖b7! 17. ♖c5 dxe5 18. ♖xc5 ♚g5 19. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 20. ♚g5 ♖g5.

**16.g4 ♖h8**

Maybe Black should still have played 16...b5!?

**17.f5! ♚g5**

So Black captures anyway! Other moves are no better: 17...e5 18. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 19. ♗f3, followed by 20.g5, with a winning attack, or 17... ♔d7 18. ♖xh6 ♚xh6 19. ♖xh6+ ♗g8 20. ♖xe6 ♖xe6 21. ♚f1 ♚f8 22.g5.

**18. ♚g5 ♗d7 19. ♖xe6 ♗e5 20. ♚h1**

After 20. ♚h2!, the move indicated by the German grandmaster Kindermann, White also has a winning attack.

**20... ♖xe6**

Black is lost in all variations: 20...g6 21. ♚h8+ ♗g7 22. ♚h7+! ♖xh7 23. ♚h2+ ♗g8 24. ♚h1! 20... ♖e8 21. ♚h8+ ♖f8 22. ♖e7 ♖xe7 23. ♗f5+ 20... ♗g6 21. ♚f1! ♖e8 22. ♗d5 ♖g5 23. ♖xg5 ♖xd4 24. ♖e7+! ♗xe7 25. ♚h8+ ♗g8 26. ♖7 mate!

**21. ♖b3! ♖b4 22. ♚h8+ ♖f7 23. ♖f4+ ♖f6**

Or 23... ♖g6 24. ♗xe6.

**24. ♚h7! ♖g8**

After 24... ♖c3 White wins with 25. ♖xf6+, while 24... ♗xg4 is met by 25. ♖xf6 ♗xf6 26. ♖d5 dxe5 27. ♚g7+! ♖xg7 28. ♗xe6+.

**25. ♖xf6! ♖xh7 26. ♖g5! ♖c7 27. ♗xe6!**

**♚ac8 28. ♖fg7 ♖g8 29. ♚h1 ♖xe4**

**30. ♚h8+ ♖f7 31. ♖xc7 ♖xc3 32. ♖g8+**

And Black resigned.

SI 32.1

- Adams  
 Knezevic

France 1997

**1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖b6 5. ♗b3 ♖f6 6. ♗c3 e6 7. ♖e2**

Not a very obvious move. One of the ideas behind it is castling queenside and marching the pawns down the kingside. Black will be under pressure. For 7. ♔d3, see the next two games.

**7... ♚b4**

Black can also go for other moves here, such as 7... ♖c7 or 7...d6. An example is 7... ♖c7

8.g4 h6 9.♔g2 a6 10.f4 d6 11.♔d2 ♔e7 12.h4, with a good position for White, Mikh.Tseitlin-Avshalumov, Balatonbereny 1989.

### 8.♔d2 0-0 9.a3 ♔xc3

After 9...♔e7 10.e5 ♔d5 11.♔xd5 exd5 12.0-0-0 d6 13.exd6 ♔xd6 14.♔c3 White is slightly better.

### 10.♔xc3 e5

Otherwise White takes on f6.

### 11.0-0-0 ♔d8

Black can also play 11...♔e8, e.g. 12.g4!?! d5! 13.exd5 ♔xcg4 14.f3 ♔d4! 15.♔xd4 exd4 16.♔xd4 ♔d6 17.♔f2 ♔f4+ 18.♔d2 ♔xf3, with a complicated position, Sorokin-Karasev, Blagoveshchensk 1988.

11...♔e8!?! is another option; Black continues with 12...d6 and 13...♔e6.

### 12.♔d6!

Exceptionally strong! In view of the pinned ♔c6, the main threat is 13.♔a5. There is no cure against the exchange sacrifice on f6.



### 12...♔c7

12...♔d4? fails to 13.♔xd4 exd4 14.♔a5, while 12...♔e7 fails to 13.♔a5 ♔a6 14.♔xa6 bxa6 15.♔xc6.

13.♔xf6! gxf6 14.♔g4+ ♔h8 15.♔h4 ♔d6

15...♔g7 is met by 16.♔d2 ♔d6 17.♔h6+ ♔g8 18.♔g5! ♔f8 19.♔xf6 ♔g7 20.♔xg7+ ♔xg7 21.♔xd8, with a winning position. Black's most stubborn defence is 15...♔d6!?!.

Nijboer-Piket, Amsterdam 2001, continued as follows: 16.♔xf6+ ♔g8 17.♔g5+ ♔h8 18.f4 ♔e7 19.♔xe7 ♔xe7 20.fxc5 dxc5 21.♔xc5+ ♔g8 22.♔f6. White had good play for the exchange, but in the end Black managed to escape with a draw.

### 16.f4!

White has magnificent play for the sacrificed exchange. Black is probably already lost.

### 16...♔e7 17.♔b5! ♔e8

Here is anything better? After 17...d5? 18.♔xc6 bxc6 19.♔xe5 it is over, and also after 17...d6? 18.♔xc6 bxc6 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.♔b4 ♔e6 21.♔c5 ♔e7 22.♔b7. According to Adams, 17...♔g8!?! is better, in order to play 19...♔g6 after 18.♔xc6 dxc6 19.♔xe5. But after 20.♔d1 ♔a5 Black's position is pretty dire.

### 18.♔d1 d6 19.♔a5 ♔d7

Or 19...♔xa5 20.♔xe8 ♔xe8 21.♔xf6+ ♔g8 22.♔d3, and Black might as well resign.

### 20.♔xb7 ♔d4

What else?

### 21.♔xd4! ♔xb5

Or 21...exd4 22.♔xd4 ♔g7 23.♔xd7 ♔eb8 24.♔g5+ ♔f8 25.♔xf6 ♔xd7 26.♔g7+ ♔c8 27.♔g8 mate!

### 22.♔xd6 exd4 23.♔xd4

The black position has been shot to pieces. The rest needs no comment.

23...♔xd6 24.♔xf6+ ♔xf6 25.♔xf6+ ♔g8 26.♔g5+ ♔f8 27.♔xb5 ♔xe4 28.♔c5+ ♔g8 29.b4 h6 30.♔c6 ♔e1+

31.♔b2 ♔d8 32.♔xh6 ♔d2 33.♔g5+ ♔f8 34.♔c5+

Black resigned.

SI 32.1

□ Nadianan

■ Palevic

Correspondence game 1993

1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 ♔c6 3.d4 exd4 4.♔xd4 ♔b6 5.♔b3 ♔f6 6.♔c3 ♔g7 7.♔d3 a6 8.♔e3 ♔c7 9.0-0 ♔e7 10.f4 d6 11.♔f3

The usual attacking set-up by White in this line.

### 11...0-0 12.♔ae1 b5 13.e5!?

The sharpest continuation. For the much played alternative 13.g4, see the game Ullin-Akopian. 13.♔g3 and 13.♔h3 have also been tried. An example with the latter move is Payen-Wauters, Cannes 1989: 13...e5 14.f5 ♔b4 15.g4 d5 16.g5 ♔xe4? (16...d4! is the critical move, with an unclear position) 17.♔xd5 ♔xd5 18.♔xe4 ♔xe3 19.♔xe3 ♔xg5 20.♔g3! ♔f6 21.♔g2 ♔a7+ 22.♔h1 ♔b8 23.♔xg7+ ♔h8 24.♔h7+ ♔xh7 25.♔h3+, and Black resigned.

### 13...♔d7

Less good is 13...dxe5?! 14.fxe5, and now Black has to play 14...♔d7, after which 15.♔f4! ♔b7 16.♔g3 is good for White, as 14...♔xe5? 15.♔xa8 ♔eg4 16.g3 ♔b7 17.♔a7 ♔c6 fails to 18.♔e4! ♔xe4 19.♔a5, and White wins. Thus an analysis by Nadianan. But 13...♔e8!?! is a good alternative.

### 14.exd6

14.♔h3!?! was also worth considering.

### 14...♔xd6

After 14...♔xd6? White has 15.♔xb5! axb5 16.♔xb5, and White wins material.

### 15.♔a5!?

15.♔e4! is also very good: 15...♔c7 16.♔h5 g6 17.♔h6, with good attacking chances.

### 15...♔xa5

This is forced, as 15...♔db8? in impossible in view of 16.♔e4 ♔d7 17.♔d1 ♔c7 18.♔xd7!

### 16.♔xa8 ♔b7

Other moves are weaker. 16...♔c6? is met by 17.♔e4, while after 16...b4?! 17.♔e4 ♔c7 18.♔a7 ♔b7 19.♔f2! ♔c6 20.♔e3! ♔c5 (after 20...f5 White can escape with 21.♔h3!) 21.♔h3 ♔xd3 22.exd3 White is better, again according to Nadianan's analysis.

### 17.♔a7 b4! 18.♔d1!

After both 18.♔b5? and 18.♔e4? Black has 18...♔c6 19.♔e2 f5 20.♔g5 ♔a8 21.♔d4 ♔c5, and wins.

### 18...♔c7!

Bad is 18...bxc3? 19.♔xh7+ ♔xh7 20.♔xd6 ♔xd6 21.♔d4! ♔c5 22.♔d3+ ♔g8 23.♔xc5 ♔xc5 24.♔xc3, and White wins.

### 19.♔xa6! ♔a8

Now 19...bxc3 was definitely a possibility, although White is marginally better after 20.♔xb7 ♔xb7 21.b3 or 21.bxc3!?. Again according to Nadianan.

### 20.♔b5



### 20...♔c2!

Threatening mate on g2! Other queen moves are not good: 20...♔c6? fails to 21.♔xb7, while 20...♔d8? is met by 21.♔d4, e.g. 21...♔c5 22.♔xc5 ♔xc5 23.♔xd8+ ♔xd8 24.♔xb7 ♔xb7 25.b3 ♔c8 26.c3! bxc3 27.♔c1, and White has a winning endgame.

### 21.♔d2

After 21...♔xb7 ♔xa7 22.♔xa7 ♔xb7 23.♔d7 ♔xb5+ 24.♔xc5 ♔xc5+ 25.♔d4 f6 the position is approximately equal, according to Palevic.

### 21...♔xa7

21...♔xd2? was bad in view of 22.♔xa8+, but 21...♔f5!?! or 21...♔g6!?! would have been a possibility.

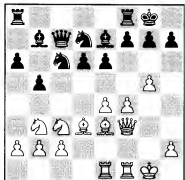
### 22.♔xc2 ♔xa6 23.♔d1 ♔f6 24.♔c7 ♔f8

Here a draw was agreed. The position, incidentally, is still not entirely clear. Instead of the text, 24...♔f8? would have been bad, as White then has the trick 25.♔xe7! ♔xe7 26.♔c5+ ♔e8 27.♔xc7+.

□ Ulibin  
■ Akopian

Soviet Union 1986

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 ♘b6 5.♗b3 ♘f6 6.♗c3 e6 7.♗d3 ♙e7 8.0-0 a6 9.♙e3 ♘c7 10.f4 d6 11.♖f3 0-0 12.♙e1 b5 13.g4 ♗b7 14.g5 ♗d7



## 15.♖h3

15.♖h3 is probably more dangerous for Black – ♚f1-f3-h3 is looming! See the game Ulbin-Kirov (SI 39.16) for the same manoeuvre.

15...♗b4 16.f5 exf5 17.exf5 ♗xd3 18.cxd3 ♙e8 19.♗d4

The aggressive 19.f6? gxf6 20.gxf6 ♙xf6 21.♙xf6 ♗xf6 22.♖g3+ ♗h8 23.d4 yields nothing; 23...♙xe1+ 24.♖xe1 ♙g8+ 25.♗f1 ♙g6. The other pawn move, 19.g6, leads to perpetual check after 19...hxg6 20.fxg6 fsg6 21.♖e6+ ♗h7 22.♖h3+, but maybe Black can try 19...♗f6!?

## 19...♗f6!

On its way to the b6-g1 diagonal! And ♙e8 is activated as well.

## 20.a3

After 20.g6 hxg6 21.fxg6 fsg6 22.♗e6 Black has 22...♙xf1+ 23.♙xf1 ♗c6, with good play. 20...♙e5 21.f6 gxf6 22.gxf6 ♗h8! 23.♗h6 ♗c5

Even 23...♙g8+ 24.♗g7+ ♙xg7+ 25.fxg7+ ♗xg7 was worth considering; after 26.♙e3, followed by 27.♗e2, the position is unclear, according to Akopian.

## 24.♗g7+ ♗g8 25.♗e2

White definitely has to cover the knight first.

## 25...♙d5! 26.♗f5

26.♙xf8? won't work in view of 26...♖h1+ 27.♗f2 ♗xd3+ 28.♗g3 (28.♖xd3 ♖g2 mate) 28...♙c3+.

## 26...♗g4!

Now 26...♖h1+? 27.♗f2 ♗xd3+ was not good; after 28.♗g3 White simply wins.

## 27.♗h6+

Other moves are bad: 27.♖xg4? ♖h1+ 28.♗f2 ♖xh2+, and mate; 27.♗e3? ♗b6+, and White wins. 27.♗f3 ♗b6+ also wins for White.

## 27...♗xh6 28.♗xh6 ♗b6+ 29.d4 ♗xd4+

## 30.♗xd4 ♗xd4+ 31.♙e3 ♗d3

After 31...♖e4? 32.♙f4! it is curtains.

## 32.♖g3+ ♗g6 33.♙h6 ♙xe1 34.♙xe1

## ♙c8 35.♙e7

35.♙c1 is safer.

## 35...♗d5

Maybe Black could still have tried 35...♙f3, with the intention of 36...♙g4.

## 36.♙e7 ♗e4

Draw.

## SI 43.1

□ De Vreugt  
■ Schuurman

Amsterdam 2001

## 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 g6

The Hyper-Accelerated Dragon offers both players all kinds of possibilities to experiment.

## 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4

A deviation that makes the play even sharper. 4.♗xd4 would have transposed to the 'normal' Dragon after 4...♗c6.

## 4...♗f6 5.e5

Here White can choose between three moves. With the usual 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♖a4 d6 7.e5! he tries to open the centre.

White has indicated the unusual 5.♗b5 a6! (after 5...♖a5+?!, 6.♖c3! is extremely annoying, because c8 is hanging. An example in which things went wrong very quickly is Fette-Legahn, Krumbach 1991: 6...♗c6 7.♖xa5 ♗xa5 8.♗c3 a6 9.e5 ♗g4 10.♗d5 ♗d8 11.h3 ♗h6 12.♙e3 1-0. The intention of the bishop move becomes clear after 5...♗c6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 8.♗c3, although this is certainly playable for Black) 6.e5 axb5 7.exf6 ♗c6, and the white queen is chased out of the centre after all.

The text chases the black king's knight away.

## 5...♗c6 6.♖f4

6.♖a4 ♗d5 7.♖b3 (7.♖e4 transposes to the game) 7...♗b6 8.♙f4 is another idea. Black lost against it after 8...♗g7 9.♗c3 0-0 10.0-0 d5?! 11.exd6 e.p. e5?! (11...♙e6 12.♖a3) 12.♗g5 ♖e8 13.♗e4!?

14.♖b5 f6 15.♙e3 ♖f7? (here 15...♙xa2 is Black's last chance) 16.♗f5! fxe5 17.♗xg5 ♗d4 18.♙xd4 ♗d7 19.♗xf7 ♙xb5 20.♗e5 1-0 Rogers-Schuurman, Hooogveen 2002.

## 6...♗d5 7.♖e4 ♗db4

The game Trenchard-Blackburne, Vienna 1898, (7...♗c7 8.♗c3 ♗g7 9.♗c4 b5!) indicates how old this system already is.

## 8.a3

Provocation. White usually chooses between the developing moves 8.♙b5 and 8.♗a3 d5 (8...d6 9.♙b5!) 9.♖f4 ♗g7 10.♗d2 ♖b6 11.c3 ♗a6 12.♗b5 0-0.

## 8...d5! 9.♖e2

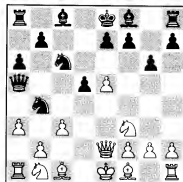
9.exd6? e.p. ♙f5 ends in tears for White.

## 9...♖a5?

A huge error. Black should have played 9...♗a6 10.b4 ♗c7 11.♙b2 ♗g7.

## 10.c3! a6

10...♗a6 11.b4 ♗axb4 (after 11...♖c7 12.h5 Black also loses a piece) 12.cxd4 ♗xb4 13.♖b5+ ♖xb5 14.♙xb5+ ♗c6, Black has insufficient compensation for the piece.



## 11.cxb4?

White allows himself to be drawn into an unclear adventure. Only with the subtle backtracking move 11.♗d1! ♙f5 12.cxb4 ♗xb4 13.♗d2 e6 14.♗d4 would he have maintained his winning advantage.

## 11...♗xb4 12.♗c3 ♙f5 13.♗d4 ♗d3+

## 14.♗d1 ♗xc1?

Black misses his chance. After 14...♖b6 15.♙e3 ♗xb2+ 16.♗d2 ♗c4+ White would be well advised to allow move repetition (17.♗d1 ♗b2), as 17.♗c1? ♙e8 goes wrong. Better is 15.♗f5! ♗xf2+ 16.♗e1 ♗xh1 17.♗xd5 ♖a5+ 18.♖d2, and White is still superior.

## 15.♖e3!

This puts paid to Black's counterplay.

## 15...♖c5 16.♙xc1 ♙h6 17.f4

Black resigned.

## SI 43.1

□ Aronin  
■ Kantarovich

Moscow 1960

## 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 g6 3.c3 b6?!

An early queen fianchetto in the Sicilian is generally not a good idea. A good possibility is 3...♗f6, or 3...♗g7 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d5, when 6.exd5 ♗f6 transposes to the Caro-Kann, Panov variation. White can also try 6.e5.

#### 4.d4 ♖b7 5.♙c4 d5?!

This is asking too much. 5...♙c4?! is also too dangerous in view of 6.♙xf7+ ♖xf7 7.♗g5+, but 5...♙g7 is still playable.

#### 6.exd5 ♙xd5?

Consistent but fatal. Black's only hope was 6...♙f6.

#### 7.♖a4+! ♙c6

Or 7...♗c6 8.♗e5 ♙c8 9.♙b5, and White wins material.



#### 8.♗e5!

And Black resigned. ♖a4 is untouchable in view of mate on f7, while 8...♖c7 is met by 9.♗xc6 ♗xc6 10.d5.

SI 43.3

Nunn

Surtees

Basingstoke 1977

#### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 a6

O'Kelly's move.

#### 3.c4

The point of 2...a6 is that 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 is met by 4...♗f6 5.♗c3 e5, followed by 6...♙b4. White need not really fear this line, but with the text he avoids it altogether.

#### 3...♗c6

With 3...e6 Black can allow transposition to

the Kan variation with 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗xd4.

#### 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗xd4 ♗f6 6.♗c3 e5

7.♗f5? d5 8.cxd5 ♗xf5 9.exf5 ♗d4

#### 10.♗d3 ♗xd5 11.0-0

All this is known, but Black's variation does not have a good name.

#### 11...♙b4

11...♗xc3? is certainly less good: 12.bxc3 ♗c6 13.♙b1 ♖d7 14.♖f3 ♗e7 15.♙e4 0-0 (or 15...♙c8 16.f6! ♗xf6 17.♙f5) 16.f6! ♗xf6 17.♙xb7!, and Black resigned, Zapletal-Bakos, correspondence game 1968, as after 17...♖xb7 18.♖f5 he is hopelessly lost.

#### 12.♗e4! ♗xc3 13.bxc3 ♙xc3 14.♙b1 0-0

14...♙b8 can be met very strongly by 15.♖g4 g6 16.♙g5.

#### 15.♙xb7

15.♖h5 and 15.♖g4 have also been played here, but the text is White's strongest option.



#### 15...♖d6?

White was threatening 16.♙a3, but the text is not good. 15...♖h4 16.♖d3 ♙ad8 17.♙a3 also favours White: 17...♗b5 18.g3! ♖g4 19.♙xf7! ♗xa3 20.♙xf8+ ♙xf8 21.♙d5+ ♖h8 22.♖xc3, with a winning advantage for White, Kondali-Letic, correspondence game 1979, or 17...♙f8 18.♖c4 ♖h5 19.♙d5 ♖h8, thus for the correspondence game Nikan-Kanen-Letic, 1978/80, and now 20.f6! would have been very strong: 20...gxf6 21.♙e7 or

20...g6 21.♖c7. 15...♙b8!? is probably Black's best chance, although this is followed by 16.♙xb8 ♖xb8 17.f6.

#### 16.♙b3 ♙ac8 17.♙a3 ♖d8

17...♖f6 is met by 18.♙xf8 ♗xb3 19.♙xg7, winning a pawn.

#### 18.♙b7!

Back to the seventh rank – always a cherished dream for a rook!

#### 18...♙e8 19.♙xf7!?

19.♙xb6 ♖f6 (19...♗c7 20.f6) 20.♙d5 was also strong.

#### 19...♖g5

The rook was invulnerable: 19...♖xf7 20.♖h5+ ♖g8 (or 20...♖f6 21.♖xh7 ♖f7 22.♖h5+) 21.f6 g6 22.♙xg6 ♖d7 23.f7+, winning.

#### 20.♙d5 ♖h8 21.f6 g6

Or 21...gxf6 22.♙e7.

#### 22.♖a4 e4?!

A mistake in a hopeless position.

#### 23.♙xh7+!

Black resigned. There follows 23...♖xh7 24.♖d7+ ♖h6 25.♖g7+ ♖h5 26.♖h7+ ♖g4 (or 26...♖h6 27.g4+ ♖g5 28.f4+ exf3 e.p. 29.♙c1+) 27.♖h3+ ♖f4 28.♙d6+ ♙e5 29.♖xc8.

SI 43.5

Bouwmeester

Pomar

Bern 1962

#### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗f6

The Nimzowitsch variation, a rather dubious way to play the Sicilian.

#### 3.e5 ♗d5 4.♗c3 e6

The move of the real Nimzowitsch fans, 4...♗c3 5.dxc3 ♗c6 6.♙f4 e6 has also been tried, but after 7.♙c4 ♖c7 8.0-0 White is slightly better.

#### 5.♗xd5 exd5 6.d4 d6

For 6...♗c6, see the game Haba-Kummer.

#### 7.♙b5+ ♗c6

7...♙d7 8.♙xd7+ ♖xd7 9.0-0 is good for White.

#### 8.0-0 ♙e7 9.c4!

White attacks the black position with tactical means.

#### 9...♙e6

After 9...dxc4 White plays 10.d5 a6 11.♙a4 b5 12.dxc6 bxa4 13.exd6 ♖xd6 14.♖xa4 0-0 15.♙d1, with a good position.

#### 10.♙e3! ♖b6 11.a4! 0-0-0?

This makes life easier for White. Better, although also very good for White, is 11...a6 12.exd6 ♙xd6 13.cxd5 axb5 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.axb5 ♙al 16.♖xa1 ♖xb5 17.dxc5 ♙xc5 18.♖a8+ ♗d8 19.♙g5 ♙e7 20.♙xe7 ♖xc7 21.♖a3+. Thus Bouwmeester.

#### 12.a5! ♖c7

12...♗xa5 is followed by 13.exd6 ♙xd6 14.dxc5 ♙xc5 15.♙xc5 ♙xc5 16.♙xa5.

#### 13.exd6 ♙xd6 14.dxc5

Now White wins easily. The rest is silence. 14...♙e5 15.a6 ♙xb2 16.axb7+ ♖b8 17.a2 dxc4 18.♖a4 c3 19.♙f4 ♙xa2 20.♙xc7+ ♖xc7 21.♙xc6

Black resigned.

SI 43.5

Haba

Kummer

Austria 1988

#### 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.e5 ♗d5 4.♗c3 e6

#### 5.♗xd5 exd5 6.d4 ♗c6

A pawn sacrifice that was fairly popular for a good while, but which probably demands too much from the black position.

#### 7.dxc5 ♙xc5 8.♖xb5 ♖b6

A slightly more refined way to prove the correctness of 6...♗c6 is 8...d6!? 9.exd6 ♖b6. After 10.♖e4+ ♙e6 11.♖h4 the situation is unclear.

#### 9.♙c4!

White could have covered the f2 pawn with 9. ♖d2?!, of course, but after 9...0-0 10. ♔c4 d6 11. exd6 ♗e8+ his position is very dubious. 9...♔f2+ 10. ♖e2 0-0 11. ♖f1 ♔c5 12. ♔g5 ♔d4+ 13. ♖d1 ♔e6 14. ♔e4 d6 The only way to create counterplay.

#### 15. exd6 ♔d8

Here 15...♔xd6? 16. ♔xd6 ♔d8 fails to 17. ♔f4!, with the point 17...♔xf4 18. ♖xf7+ ♔h8 19. ♖g8+, and mate, Unzicker-Sarapu, Siegen Olympiad 1970.

16. ♔d3 ♔xd6 17. ♖h5! f5 18. ♔xd6 ♖xd6 19. ♖xf5 ♖xh2 20. ♖f7+ ♔h8 21. ♔g5! ♔g8 22. ♔e3 ♖xg2

The crucial position of the entire variation. It looks as if White is demonstrating a forced win in this game.



#### 23. ♖c1!

23. ♖h5 has also been played, but then the white attack falters after 23...♔f8 24. ♖f4 ♖h3.

#### 23... ♖d5

This loses; but other moves are no better. A small selection from the various possibilities: 23...g6 24. ♔d4+ ♔xd4 25. ♖f6+ ♔g7 26. ♖d8+ ♔g8 27. ♖xd4+ ♔g7 28. ♔f8 mate, or 23... ♖h3 24. ♖d2 ♔d8 25. ♔a1 ♖g3 26. ♖c1 ♔d7 27. ♔g1 ♖e5 28. ♔h1 ♔f8 29. ♔xh7!, or 23...♔g5 24. ♖e7 ♔e6 25. ♖h4, or 23... ♖h2 24. ♖f3 ♖e5 25. ♔h1 ♔f8 26. ♔f4

♖c5 27. ♖e4 h6 28. ♖e5, and Black is finished in all cases.

#### 24. ♖f5! ♖h1+

After 24... ♖d7 White wins with 25. ♔h5! ♔f8 26. ♔xh7! ♖x7 27. ♔g6+, and mate, while 24... ♖c6 is also met by 25. ♔h5!, e.g. 25...♔f8 26. ♔d4 ♖d6 (26...♔g4 is met by 27. ♖xf8! ♔gxf8 (27...♔xh5 28. ♔xg7 mate) 28. ♔xh7+ ♔g8 29. ♔xg7+ ♔h8 30. ♔xg4+, and mate) 27. ♔e5 ♖b4, and now not 28. ♖xf8?, of course, in view of 28... ♖e1, and White is mated, but 28.c4, with the winning threat of 29. ♖xf8.

#### 25. ♖d2 ♖h2+

Or 25... ♖xa1 26. ♔h5 ♔f8 27. ♔xh7+ ♔xh7 28. ♖h5 g6 29. ♔d4+, and mate, or 25... ♖h4 26. ♔a1, winning, e.g. 26...g6 27. ♔h5!

#### 26. ♔f2 ♖h4 27. ♔g1 g6 28. ♔h1 ♖b4+

And Black resigned in view of 29. ♖c1 ♔g7 30. ♔xh7+, and mate.

#### SI 44.7

#### ☐ Rufenacht

#### ■ Rosen

Correspondence game 1994

#### 1.e4 c5 2. ♔c3 ♔c6 3. ♔ge2

With this move White postpones the decision of whether he will continue with g3 or d4.

#### 3...e5

This is how Black prevents the option 3.d4. The text weakens square d5, but it is not really bad.

#### 4. ♔d5 ♔ge7

4...♔ce7?! may be more accurate, e.g. 5. ♔ec3 ♔xd5 6. ♔xd5 ♔f6 7. ♔c4 ♔e7 8.0-0 d6 9.d3 0-0 10.f4 ♔xd5 11. ♔xd5 exf4 12. ♔xf4 ♔e6!, with equality, Adorjan-Sveshnikov, Alushta 1994.

#### 5. ♔c3 ♔xd5 6. ♔xd5 g6

Safer is 6...♔e7, but White keeps good play. An example is Fischer-Spassky, 19th match

game Belgrade 1992: 7.g3 (7. ♔c4?! also looks logical) 7...d6 8. ♔g2 h5 9.h4 ♔e6 10.d3 ♔xd5 11. exd5 ♔h8 12.f4 ♔d7 13.0-0 g6, and now the obvious 14.f5! would have yielded White slightly better prospects.

#### 7.h4!?

White immediately grabs the initiative on the kingside.

#### 7...♔g7

7...h5 is strongly met by 8.d4!: 8...cxd4 9. ♔g5 ♔e7 10. ♔xe7 ♔xc7 11. ♖d2, and White has good compensation for the pawn.

#### 8.h5 0-0 9. ♔c4 d6

After 9...♔a5? White strikes lightning fast: 10.hxg6! hxg6 (10...♔xc4 11. ♖h5 fxg6 12. ♖xh7+ ♔f7 13. ♔h3!, and wins) 11. ♖g4! ♔xc4 (11...d6 12. ♖xg6! fxg6 13. ♔e7 mate!) 12. ♖h3 ♔e8 13. ♖h7+ ♔f8 14.d3, with the winning threat of 15. ♔h6.

#### 10.hxg6 hxg6 11.d3 ♔e6 12. ♔c3 ♖e7?!

Rüfenacht has suggested 12... ♖d7 13. ♖f3 ♔e7 14. ♖g3 f6 as a stronger option here.

#### 13. ♖f3 b5 14. ♔d5! ♖fc8

After 14... ♔a8 15. ♖g3 ♔b4 16. ♖h2 ♔f8 17. ♖h7+ ♔f8 18. ♔xe6 ♖xc6 19.a3 ♔c6 20.d5 White is also better, Rüfenacht.

#### 15. ♖g3 ♔a8 16.c3 c4

16...b4 is no better; there follows 17. ♖h2 bxc3 18. ♖h7+ ♔f8 19.bxc3, e.g. 19...♔d8 20. ♔xe6 ♖xc6 21.d5 and 22. ♔h6.

#### 17.dxc4 bxc4 18. ♖h2 ♔f8 19. ♖h7 ♔d8?

Rüfenacht has suggested 19...♔f6 as a relatively better move, but this is followed by 20. ♔xe6 ♖xc6 21.d5 ♔e8 22. ♔h3 ♔d7 23. ♔f3 ♔h8 24. ♔xf6+ ♖xf6 25. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 26. ♔xf7+ ♔e6 27. ♔g7!, with a large advantage for White; after 27...♔f6 28. ♔c7, 28...♔h1+? 29. ♔e2 ♔b6 is impossible in view of 30. ♔g5+, while 28...♔b6 is simply met by 29. ♔e2.

#### 20. ♔xe6 ♖xc6 21. ♔d5 ♖g4

Who sees anything better?

#### 22. ♔h4! ♖xg2



#### 23. ♖xg7+!

And Black resigned in view of 23... ♖xg7 24. ♔h6+ ♔h8 25. ♔g5+ ♔g8 26. ♔f6+ ♔g7 27. ♔h7+ ♔f8 28. ♔h8+, and mate on e8 or g8.

#### SI 44.9

#### ☐ Spassky

#### ■ Hjartarson

Belfort 1988

#### 1.e4 c5 2. ♔c3 ♔c6 3.g3 g6 4. ♔g2 ♔g7 5.d3 e6 6. ♔e3 ♔d4?!

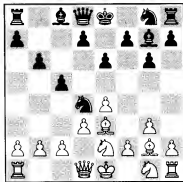
This doesn't look bad, yet this knight move is, in fact, often an inaccuracy when the white king's knight has not yet gone to f3 or e2. A better move is 6...d6.

#### 7. ♔ce2! b6?!

Again not a good move. Winning the pawn with 7...♔xe2 8. ♔xe2 ♔xb2?! is also dubious: 9. ♔b1 ♔g7 (9... ♖a5+? is very bad: 10. ♔d2 ♖xa2 11. ♔xb2 ♖xb2 12. ♔c3) 10. ♔xc5 ♖a5+ 11. ♔b4 ♖xa2 12.0-0, and White has good play for the pawn. Instead of 8...♔xb2?! Black can play 8...d6, but then White goes 9.c3, followed by d4, and White has the better position. Relative best is 7...d6, which is followed by 8.c3 ♔c6 9.d4 cxd4 10. ♔xd4 ♔xd4 11. ♔xd4, with good play for



White, Smyslov-Denker, match Soviet Union-US, Moscow 1946.



SI 45.7

□ Krapivin

■ Morozov

Pskov 1998

**1.e4 c5 2.♗c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♕g2 ♗g7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 e5 7.♗f3**

Another good move is 7.♗f3.

**7...♗ge7**

7...exf4, in order to prevent the push f4-f5 once and for all, may be a better option. The position after 8.♗xf4 (8.gxf4? ♗hx3 9.♗hx3 ♗hh4+ costs a piece) 8...♗ge7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♗e3 ♗b8 is reasonably playable for Black.

**8.0-0 0-0!**

Very careless! Now White will attack immediately. Better options are 8...♗d4!? or still 8...exf4?!

**9.f5! gxf5**

Black can try to keep the position closed with 9...f6, but after 10.g4 this is not satisfactory either, e.g. 10...g5 11.♗f2 ♗h8 12.h4 h6 13.♗h3 b5 14.hxg5 hxg5, and the sacrifice 15.♗xg5! fxe5 16.♗xg5 yields strong threats for White (Lane-Manet, Fourmies 1995).

**10.exf5 ♗xf5?**

This move is refuted, but after 10...♗x5 White has the very strong move 11.♗h5!, while 10...f6 11.♗h5 also leaves Black with an awkward position, e.g. 11...♗d4 12.♗d5 ♗d7 13.♗g5! fxe5 14.f6! ♗xd5 15.♗xd5+ ♗e6 16.f7+! ♗h8 17.♗e4 ♗f5 18.♗x5+ ♗x5 19.♗x5, with a large advantage for White, Solomon-Wojtkiewicz, Philadelphia 1994.

Desperation... After 22...♗h4 23.♗f2 or 22...♗h6 23.♗f2 ♗a6 24.♗g3 ♗g8 25.♗d6+ ♗e8 26.♗e5 ♗c8 27.♗c7 ♗d8 28.♗xa7

Black can also resign.

**23.gxf5 bxc4 24.♗e5 ♗a8**

And Black resigned.

**8.♗xd4!**

Not very obvious but quite strong. After 8.c3 ♗xe2 9.♗xe2 ♗b7 10.♗d2 f5 Black would not be bad.

**8...exd4 9.e5 ♗b8 10.f4 f6**

10...d6? won't work in view of 11.♗xd4.

**11.♗f3 fxe5 12.fxe5 ♗c7 13.♗exd4**

**♗xe5 14.♗e2 ♗xd4**

14...♗g7 is followed by 15.♗b5 ♗c5 16.d4, e.g. 16...♗b4+ 17.c3 ♗e7 18.♗c4 d5 19.♗a4! ♗d7 20.♗g5, with winning play.

**15.♗xd4 ♗c5**

15...♗e7 16.0-0 also favours White.

**16.♗d3 ♗g5**

After 16...♗e7? 17.♗e5 both rooks are under attack!

**17.0-0 e7**

Black never gets around to castling, as 17...♗f6 is out in view of 18.h4 ♗h5 19.♗f3 ♗b5 20.c4 ♗f5 (20...♗b4 21.♗e5) 21.g4 ♗f4 22.♗g2 ♗xg4 23.♗c5.

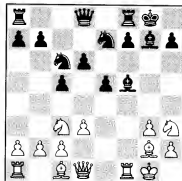
**18.♗a1 ♗f8 19.♗d2! ♗xf1+ 20.♗xf1 ♗f5**

After 20...♗b7 White wins with 21.♗xb7 ♗xb7 22.♗f3.

**21.♗c4 ♗e7?**

21...♗e7 was more stubborn.

**22.g4 b5**



SI 45.15

□ Romanishin

■ Van Wely

Stary Smokovec 1992

**1.e4 c5 2.♗c3 e6 3.g3 ♗c6 4.♕g2 g6 5.d3 ♗g7 6.♗e3 d6 7.♗d2 ♗b8 8.♗ge2 ♗d4 9.0-0 ♗e7 10.♗h6 ♗xe2+?**

Safer is 10...0-0! 11.♗xg7 ♗xg7 12.♗xd4 cxd4 13.♗e2 e5 14.f4 f6, when the position is approximately equal.

**11.♗xe2 ♗xb2**

A pawn is a pawn, but we will see that the black king will now be stuck in the centre. A high price...

**12.♗ab1**

Or 12.♗d1 1♗f6 13.d4 cxd4 14.♗xd4 a6 15.♗f3 e5 16.♗xd6 ♗xd6 17.♗xd6 ♗e6 18.♗b1 ♗xa2 19.♗b2 d6 20.♗g5 ♗c8 21.♗xa6 ♗d7, and despite the queen swap White was still better, although Bronstein-Suetin, Moscow 1981, ended in a draw.

**12...♗f6 13.d4 cxd4**

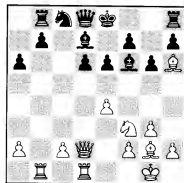
Maybe 13...c5!? is a better idea.

**14.♗xd4 a6**

14...♗c6 15.♗b5 ♗e7 16.♗fd1 is also good for White.

**15.♗fd1 ♗d7 16.♗f3 ♗c8**

Black has a very awkward position, but how can White make progress?



**11.♗xf5!**

This exchange sacrifice quickly yields White a winning attack.

**11...♗x5 12.♗e4 ♗h6**

Other moves are not better, e.g. 12...♗f4 13.♗h5 ♗e8 (13...f5 is met by the characteristic 14.♗d5+ ♗h8 15.♗g5 h6 16.♗g6! hxg6 17.♗h5 mate) 14.♗xh7+ ♗f8 15.♗g5 ♗d7 16.♗d5 ♗e6 17.♗f1 ♗xc2 18.♗g6 ♗d4 19.♗h6, and Black resigned, Bilek-Gheorghiu, Bucharest 1968, or 12...♗f7 13.♗xh7+ ♗xh7 14.♗h5+ ♗g8 15.♗g5, and wins.

**13.♗h5 d5**

Black dreams up another attempt, but it won't work. 13...♗f6 is met by 14.♗d5 ♗e6 15.♗g5 ♗g4 16.♗f6+ ♗xf6 17.♗xh6, and mate on h7.

**14.♗d5 f5 15.♗xh6 fxe4 16.♗xg7 ♗xg7 17.♗g5**

All this is forced. Now White is threatening both 18.♗xh7, mate, and 18.♗e6+, so Black again has no choice.

**17...♗xd5 18.♗xh7+ ♗f6 19.h4!**

White has time to keep the knight on g5.

**19...♗d4**

Black's only option.

**20.♗f1+ ♗f3+ 21.♗g2**

Black is helpless.

**21...♗h8 22.♗xe4+ ♗e6 23.♗g6+ ♗e7**

**24.♗xf3 ♗hf8 25.♗g5+ ♗e6 26.c4**

Black resigned. It's all over: 26...♗c6 27.♗g6+ ♗e7 28.♗g7+.

**17.e5!**

This is how!

**17...dxe5**

17...dxe5 is always bad in view of 18.0xe5 dxe5 19.0g7 0g8 20.0xe5.

**18.0g5 0e7**

18...0xg5 19.0xg5 f6 is impossible; 20.0xf6.

**19.0e4!**

19.0xf7 0xf7 20.0xd7 0xd7 21.0xd7 is also good for White, but the text is far stronger.

**19...0g8**

An awful move to play, but after 19...f6 20.0g7 0g8 21.0xf6! 0xf6 22.0xf6+ 0xf6 23.0xd7+ 0xf8 24.0c7 it is curtains.

**20.0g5!**

Now Black quickly succumbs to the weakness of the dark squares. The end speaks for itself.

**20...0xg5**

Or 20...0c7 21.0xc7 0xc7 22.0g5+ 0xf8 23.0f6, winning.

**21.0xg5 b5**

After 21...0g7 White plays 22.0c3!, after which 22...0xg5 won't wash in view of 23.0c7.

**22.0e4 0b6 23.0d6 0c8**

After 23...0c4 White wins with 24.0f6+.

**24.0xe5 f5 25.0d6+ 0e7 26.0xc8+ 0xc8 27.0c5+ 0f6 28.0c6 0g7****29.0d4+ e5 30.0h4+**

Black resigned.

SI 48.5

□ Yilmaz

■ Kouatly

Thessaloniki Olympiad 1984

**1.e4 c5 2.0f3 0c6 3.b4!?**

Correct or not, this move is certainly interesting!

**3...cxb4**

3...cxb4 is met by 4.c3 0c6 5.d4.

**4.d4 e6**

After 4...d5 White plays 5.exd5 0xd5 6.c4, e.g. 6...bxc3 e.p. 7.0xc3 0xa5 8.d5! 0xc3+ 9.0d2, and White is ahead in development. Another option is to play 4...g6! and meet 5.d5 with 5...0g7.

**5.d5**

An alternative is 5.a3!?: White gets some chances for his pawn. The text leads to an attractive battle that ends in move repetition.

**5...0xf6! 6.c3 bxc3 7.dxc6 c2 8.0xc2**

Less good is 8.exd7+!; after 8...0xd7 9.0d4 0xd4 10.0xd4 cxb1 0xb1 11.0xb1 0c8 Black is better.

**8...0xa1 9.e5!**

Locking in the black queen.

**9...0e7**

Also interesting is 9...0b4+!?, which could be followed by 10.0d1! 0e7 11.0c4 0d5 12.0xd5 exd5 13.0b3 dxc6 (13...a5!?) is no better; 14.0c3 dxc6 15.0d4 a4 16.0xb4 0xa2 17.0fd2 0f5 18.0a3, and Black has problems) 14.0xb4 0xa2 15.0a3 c5 16.0xc5 0xb1+, and Black has perpetual check.

**10.a3 0xc6 11.0b2****11...0b4!**

This is how Black rescues his queen. Less good is 11...0a2! 12.0c3 0b4 13.0d2 0b3 14.0d4 0c2+ 15.0xc2 0xc2 16.0xc2, with advantage for White.

**12.0c1**

White settles for a draw; 12.axb4 0xb4+

would have yielded a very unclear position.

**12...0a2**

And here a draw was agreed in view of repetition of moves after 13.0c2 0b4.

SI 48.9

□ Korolev

■ Koskinen

Correspondence game 1993

**1.e4 c5 2.g3**

A controlled way to fight the Sicilian.

**2...d5**

The sharpest reply; but the quiet 2...0c6 is also fine.

**3.exd5 0xd5 4.0f3 0g4**

After 4...0c6 5.0c3 0e6+ 6.0e2 0d4 7.0xd4 cxd4 8.0b5 0c6 the position is approximately equal.

**5.0g2 0e6+ 6.0f1**

This is a rather strange position for the king, but e6 isn't a great place for the black queen either; 6.0e2! 0xc2+ 7.0xe2 0c6 makes it easy for Black, of course.

**6...0h3**

Playable alternatives are 6...0c6, 6...0d6 and 6...0a6+.

**7.b4!?**

An interesting pawn sacrifice that has yielded good results.

**7...cxb4 8.a3 b3**

After 8...bxa3 White gets good chances. A nice example is 9.0xa3 0c6 10.d4 0xd7 11.c4 0-0-0 12.0b5 a6 13.0f4! f6 14.d5 e5 15.0e2 exf4 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.0xa6 0d1+ 18.0xd1 0xd1+ 19.0e2 0xb1 20.0xc6+ 0d8 21.0xb3 0b6 22.0c8+ 0e7 23.0c7+ 0d8 24.0d7+ 0c8 25.0a7+ 0b8 26.0c6+ 0c8 27.0e6!, and Black resigned, Korolev-Zemin, correspondence game 1980. 8...0c6 9.0b2 also gives White good prospects: 9...0f6 10.axb4 0xb4 11.0a3 g6 12.0b1 a5 13.0xf6 exf6 14.c3 0c6 15.0b5, with good chances, Nadyrkanov-Odeev, Voskresensk 1993.

**9.0c3 0f6 10.0b1 0c6**

10...0c4+ may be better: 11.0g1 bxc2 12.0xc2 0xg2 13.0xg2 0bd7! 14.0xb7 e6 15.0b2 0e7 16.0b5 0c8 17.0e5 a6, and Black managed to hold, Korolev-Zelinsky, correspondence game 1984.

**11.0xb3 0d7 12.0e2 0-0-0**

Korolev rejected this move in his commentary to the game, but 12...0xg2+ 13.0xg2 e6 14.0b2 0e7 15.0e4 is also good for White. **13.d4 0xg2+ 14.0xg2 e6** 14...0xd4? is bad: 15.0xd4 0xd4 16.0f3, and Black is lost.

**15.0f4 0d6**

Other moves are certainly bad: 15...0xd4? 16.0xd4 0xd4 17.0f3 0d5 18.0d1, or 15...0d5? 16.0xd5 exd5 17.0hb1 b6 18.0xb6! axb6 19.0xb6, and wins, Korolev. **16.0xd6 0xd6 17.0hb1 0d7 18.0b5 0d5**

After 18...0b8, 19.0e5! 0xe5 20.dxe5 0e8 21.0d1! wins.

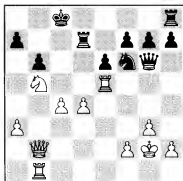
**19.c4 0e4 20.0b2 b6**

This was forced, as White was threatening 21.0c3.

**21.0e3 0f5**

Or 21...0g6 22.0e5 0xe5 23.dxe5.

**22.0e5! 0xe5 23.0xe5 0g6**



#### 24. ♖c5+

Black resigned in view of 24...bxc5 25. ♖xa7+ ♖d8 26. ♖b8+ ♖e7 27. ♖c6 mate.

SI 48.16

□ Hamdouchi  
■ Al Modiahki

Arabia 2001

#### 1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3.b3

Whoever wants to avoid the long theoretical lines after 3.d4 can fall back on this method of developing the queenside.

#### 3...b6

Black can develop his knights, of course, but the text is regarded as the most flexible continuation; he keeps all his options open.

#### 4.d4

White suddenly returns to the beaten paths of the Open Sicilian.

#### 4...cxd4 5. ♖xd4 ♖b7

Careful types would probably prefer 5...a6, which allows White to cover his e-pawn in a natural way with 6. ♖d3.

#### 6. ♖b5

Without this knight sortie the white pawn won't work, because the e-pawn is hanging.

#### 6...d5!

Black has a wide choice. For a start, he can take the pawn, of course: 6...♗xe4 7. ♖1c3

♖c6 8. ♖f4 ♖f6!? (simply 8...♖a6 should not be rejected out of hand either) 9. ♖c7+ ♖d8 10. ♖d2 ♖c8! (10...♖b4? 11. ♖g5 ♖xc7 12. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 13. a3 won't work, and 10...h6 11. ♖xa8 ♖b4 12.0-0-0 (Bakre-Ad.Horvath, Budapest 2001) is unpleasant), and White has nothing better than to quickly force move repetition with 11. ♖e8 ♖g6 12. ♖c7 ♖f6.

After 6...♖f6 7. ♖1c3 (7.e5 can be met strongly by 7...a6!) 7...d5 the game plan 8. exd5 a6 9. ♖d4 fails in view of 9...axb5 10. ♖xb5+ ♖b7 11. dxe6 fxe6 12. ♖e2 ♖b4 13.0-0-0 ♖e7!, and Black was winning in Gabrilakis-Milovanovic, Greek team championship 2002.

#### 7.exd5

After 7. ♖f4 ♖f6 8. ♖c7+ ♖d8 9. ♖xa8 ♖xf4 the knight on a8 won't have long to live.

#### 7...a6



Black is not hanging about.

#### 15. ♖g5 ♖g8 16. ♖c7

Even after the better 16...h6 White plays 17. ♖ad1, and Black continues to find it difficult to shepherd his pieces into a harmonious set-up.

#### 17. ♖ad1 ♖c5+ 18. ♖h1 ♖f8 19. ♖d2 ♖b4 20. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 21. f5 ♖xc3 22. ♖h6+

A dubious move, but it is immediately successful. 22. fxe6+! ♖g7 23. ♖d7+ ♖h8 24. ♖xc3+ ♖xc3 25. ♖xb7 ♖xe6 26. ♖xb6 yields White an advantage, because the white pawn army now dominates.

#### 22...♖e7??

This seemingly safe retreat in fact precipitates Black's downfall. After the brave 22...♖e5! 23. ♖f4+ ♖f6 White will find it hard to make progress: 24. fxe6+ (24. ♖h6 is perpetual check) 24...♖g7 25. ♖f7+ ♖h8 26. ♖xb7 ♖xd2 27. ♖xa8 ♖xc2, with an endgame that is hard to assess.

#### 23. ♖h4+ ♖f7 24. fxe6+ ♖g7 25. ♖d7+ ♖h8 26. ♖xb7 ♖c5 27. ♖xf8

Black resigned.

SI 49.4

□ Anand  
■ Gelfand

Wijk aan Zee 1996

#### 1.e4 c5 2. ♖c3

2.f4 at once has the important drawback that it allows Black to play 2...d5. After 3.exd5 Black can play 3...♖xd5, but he can also sacrifice a pawn with 3...♖f6 to get a lead in development: 4. ♖b5+!? ♖d7 5. ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 6.c4 e6!?

#### 2...d6

White's move order is pre-eminently suitable for use against hardened Najdorf fanatics like Gelfand and Kasparov. They are not very likely to meet 2. ♖c3 with 2...♖c6 or 2...e6, as this would allow White to aim for an open Sicilian (and sidestep the Najdorf!) with 3. ♖f3

or the even more subtle 3. ♖e2 (see Rüfenacht-Rosen, SI 44.7).

#### 3.f4

This is the so-called Grand Prix Attack, which became very popular in weekend tournament circles in Great Britain in the '70s. White tries to grab the initiative on the kingside as quickly as possible. Playing the often essential advance d6-d5 costs Black a valuable tempo in this move order.

#### 3...g6 4. ♖f3 ♖g7 5. ♖c4 ♖c6 6.d3 e6 7.0-0 ♖e7 8. ♖e1 h6

A waiting move to gauge White's intentions.

#### 9. ♖a3 a6

After 9...♖d4 10. ♖xd4 cxd4 11. ♖e2 0-0 12. ♖h1 f5 13. ♖g1 White has good play. Topalov-Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 1996.

#### 10.e5!

An earlier game between the same players, Anand-Gelfand, Reggio Emilia 1991/92, saw 10.a4 ♖b8 11. ♖g3, and now Anand has indicated 11...b5!? as the correct move: 12.f5 exf5 13. ♖f4 c4!, with very unclear play.

#### 10...♖f5

Good for White is 10...dxe5 11. fxe5 g5?! (after 11...♖xe5?! 12. ♖xe5 ♖xc4+ 13. ♖h1 ♖xe5 14. ♖f2 White has good play for the pawn) 12. ♖e4 g4 13. ♖f6+, Anand.

#### 11. ♖h1 ♖fd4 12. ♖e4

No better is 12. ♖xd4 cxd4 13. ♖e4; after 13...dxe5 14. ♖g3 (14. fxe5 ♖xe5! is simply good for Black) 14...♖e7! 15. fxe5 ♖xe5 16. ♖f4 ♖xf4 17. ♖xf4 f5! 18. ♖g6+ ♖d8 19. ♖d3 ♖g5, Black has an excellent position, Anand.

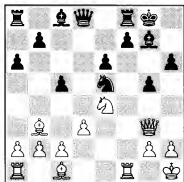
#### 12...♖f3 13. ♖f3 dxe5 14. fxe5 ♖xe5 15. ♖f5! ♖f5!

#### 15. ♖f5 g5!

After 15...0-0! White plays 16. ♖xh6! ♖xh6 (16...♖xd3 17. ♖e3) 17. ♖f6+ ♖g7 18. ♖xe5 ♖d4 19. ♖g3, with an attack; the threat is ♖a1-e1-e4. Thus Anand.

#### 16. ♖g3

16.h4?, a suggestion by Lane, was also an option.



- Berzins  
 ■ Jaracz

Swidnica 1999

1.e4 c5 2.♗c3 d6 3.f4 ♘c6 4.♗f3 g6  
 5.♗c4 ♗g7 6.0-0 e6 7.d3 ♗ge7 8.♖e1  
 0-0

Castling early is often dangerous in the Grand Prix Attack. The king position immediately comes under pressure.

9.f5!

9.♗b3 ♗a5 10.♗e3 b6 11.♗f2 ♗b7 turned out to be harmless in Tiviakov-Kasparov, Wijk aan Zee 2001.

9...d5 10.♗b3 c4

The principled move with which Black aims to refute the white set-up. An extremely dangerous strategy.

11.dxc4 d4

11...dxc4 12.f6 ♗xf6 (the black king position minus the dark-squared bishop is ripe for the slaughter, which means that 12...exf3 13.fxg7 ♗xg7 14.♗xf3 is far too risky) 13.♗xe4 ♗g7 14.♗g5 h6? (Black has to play 14...f6 or 14...f5 here) 15.♖h4! f5 16.♗ad1 ♖c7 17.♗d6, and White is winning (Mitkov-Amir, Junior world championship, Santiago 1990), because 17...hxg5 18.♗xg5 ♗d8 fails to 19.c5.

12.f6! ♗xf6 13.e5 ♗xe5

The alternative also has drawbacks: 13...♗g7 14.♗e4 ♗xe5 15.♗xe5 ♗xe5 16.♗g5! (after 16.♗h6?! ♗g7 17.♗f6+ ♗xf6 18.♗xf8 ♗f5! Black's compensation should not be underestimated) 16...f5 17.♖h4 ♗f7 18.♗f6+ ♗xf6 (18...♗h8 19.♗a1 ♗d6 20.c5! ♗xe5 21.♗e4 gives White a strong attack) 19.♗xf6 ♖f8 20.♗xd4 ♗c6. Black is under great pressure (Short-Oll, Tallinn 1998), but for the moment he will be able to hold.

14.♗xe5 dxc3 15.♖xc3 ♗xe5 16.♖xe5  
 ♗f5 17.c3 f6 18.♖e2

17.♗xg5!

17.♗xg5? hxg5 18.♗xg5 is simply met by 18...f6, and after 17.♗xc5 b6 18.♗e4 ♗b7 White wins back the pawn, but his plus has melted away.

17...hxg5 18.♗xg5 ♗g6 19.♗ae1

19.♖g4 won't work in view of 19...♖d4 20.♖h5 ♖h4.

19...♖e7 20.♗f5!

After 20.♖g4? Black now has 20...♗f6, e.g. 21.♗xe6 ♗xe6 22.♗xe6 fxe6 23.♖xg6+ ♖g7, and White has shot his bolt.

20...♗f6 21.♗xe6

Obvious enough, but maybe not the strongest move. With 21.h4! ♗g7 22.h5 White wins back his piece. Again according to a suggestion from Lane.

21...fxe6?

Now White can engineer a brilliant finish to the game. The correct reply is 21...♗e8!; after 22.♗ef1 (after 22.♗e4 ♗xe6 23.♗xe6 fxe6 24.♖xg6+ ♗g7 25.♗h5, 25...♖f6 is enough) 22...♗xe6 23.♗xe6 ♖xc6 24.♗xf6 ♖e5 25.♖f3 White has compensation for his piece, but the position is far from clear.

22.♗xe6! ♗g7

Or 22...♗xe6 23.♖xg6+ ♗g7 24.♗xe6+.

23.♗xe7+ ♗xe7 24.♗xf8 ♗xf8 25.h4  
 Black resigned.

18.♖e4 ♖b6+ 19.♗f2 ♗g7 (19...h5!?) 20.g4  
 ♗d6 21.♖f4, with enormous pressure on the king position.

18...e5 19.c5+ ♗g7 20.♖f2

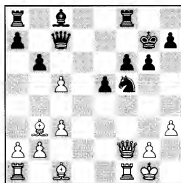
Before chasing the knight from f5, White covers the h4 square. It is true that 20.g4 ♗h4! looks premature.

20...♖c7

20...h5! prevents White's plan, but at the cost of weakening the kingside further.

21.h3 b6?

The idea to put the bishop on the long diagonal is excellent, but the execution is wrong. The game makes the difference with 21...♗d7! and 22...♗c6 painfully clear.



22.g4! ♗e7?!

Completely overlooking White's beautiful combination. But 22...♖c5 23.gxf5 ♗xf5, losing a piece, can hardly be called a serious alternative.

23.♗h6+!! ♗xh6 24.g5+ ♗xg5

With the bishop on d7 the rooks would now be connected, and 24...fxg5 would make a non-sense of White's combination. The retreat 24...♗g7 won't help either in view of 25.gxf6+ ♗h8 16.fxe7!

25.♖e3+ ♗h4 26.♖h6+ ♗g3 27.♗ae1!

Mate can only be prevented with the hopeless 27...♖c5+ 28.♗c3+ ♖xc3+ 29.♖xc3+. Black resigned.

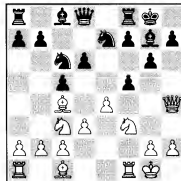
- Nogradi  
 ■ Kahn

Budapest 1996

1.e4 c5 2.♗c3 d6 3.f4 g6 4.♗f3 ♗g7  
 5.♗c4 e6 6.f5 exf5 7.d3 ♗e7 8.0-0 0-0?

After this obvious move White gets a murderous attack. Regarded as stronger is 8...♗c6 9.♖e1 h6!, e.g. 10.exf5 ♗xf5 11.g4 ♗xg4 12.♗xf7+ ♗xf7 13.♗e5+ ♗g8 14.♗xg4 ♗d4, with good play for Black, Hellers-Gelfand, Novi Sad Olympiad 1990.

9.♖e1 ♗bc6 10.♖h4



10...♖c7

A well-known game with 10...♖d7 is Targjan-Rattiger, Mayaguez 1971: 11.♗h6 fxe4 12.♗g5 ♖g4 13.♗xf7! ♖xh4? (13...♗d4+ is more stubborn, but after 14.♗h1 ♗xf7 15.♗xf7+ ♗h8 16.♗g7+ ♗xg7 17.♖xh7+ ♗f8 18.f1 White also wins) 14.♗xg7+ ♗h8 15.♗h7 mate. With 10...h5 Black can prevent 11.♗h6, but then 11.♗g5 is strong.

11.♗h6 ♗e5 12.♗g5

Now the white win is not difficult.

12...♗xc4 13.♗xg7 ♗xg7 14.♖xh7+

♗f6 15.♖h6 ♗g8 16.e5+ ♗xe5

16...dxe5 or 16...♗xe5 runs into 17.♗c4 mate.

17.♗ae1+ ♗f6 18.♗h7+

Black resigned.

SI 49.8

- Spangenberg  
 ■ Ftacnik

Moscow Olympiad 1994

1.e4 c5 2.♗c3 d6 3.f4 g6 4.♘f3 ♘g7  
 5.♙c4 e6 6.0-0 ♗e7 7.d3 ♖bc6 8.f5  
 d5!?

After 8...exf5 White plays 9.♖e1, as in Nogradi-Kahn.

9.♖b3 dxe4 10.fxg6!?

White cannot afford to be afraid in this line. After 10.dxe4 the queen swap solves all Black's problems, while 10.f6 ♗xf6 11.♗xe4 ♘g7 12.♘g5 f5 is also good for Black.

10...exf3 11.gxf7+ ♔f8 12.♖xf3 ♖d4+ 12...♗d4 is obvious enough, but after 13.♖h5 ♗ef5 14.♗e4 White has compensation for the sacrificed piece.

13.♔h1 ♗e5 14.♖e2

After 14.♖h5 Black now has 14...♖g4, swapping the queens.

14...♖g4 15.♖f2 b6 16.h3 ♖g6 17.♗f4 ♗b7

17...♗f7? costs Black material: 18.♖f3.

18.♖ae1 c4 19.dxc4?!

Here 19.♖xe5! is probably stronger: 19...cxb3 (19...♗xe5? 20.♗xe5 costs Black his h8 rook) 20.axb3 ♗f5, and now 21.♗e4!?, with complicated play, according to Plaskett in his book *Sicilian Grand Prix Attack*.

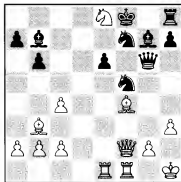
19...♗xf7 20.♖b5?!

This move is definitely less good. Maybe 20.e5! ♗d4 21.♗h6+ would have offered better prospects, although it is doubtful whether White will have compensation for his piece after 21...♗e8! (after 21...♗g8 22.♗e3 ♗xc3 23.bxc3 ♗f5 White can probably afford Plaskett's suggestion 24.cxb6!? ♗g3+ 25.♔h2 ♗xf1+ 26.♖xf1 – White has compensation for his rook), e.g. 22.♗d4+ ♗c6 23.♖f3 ♗e8.

20...♗f1 21.♗c7 ♗e8!

Surprising!

22.♗e8



22...♗d4!

The point of Black's counterplay.

23.♖d2

After 23.♖e2, 23...♗g8 also wins, e.g. 24.♗c7 ♗xg2+ 25.♔h2 e5! 26.c5 ♗xf1 27.♗xf1 ♗c3+ 28.♗xe5 ♗xe5. A beautiful little variation!

23...♗g8 24.♗e2 ♖g3!

A nice final flourish! White resigned, since he loses in all variations, as witness 25.♗xg3 ♗xg3+ 26.♔h2 ♗xf1+ 27.♔h1 ♗d2 28.♗xd2 ♗xg2 29.♗xg2 ♗xe8, or 25.♖b4+ ♗c5 26.♖xc5+ bxc5 27.♗xg3 ♗xg3+ 28.♔h2 ♗xf1+ 29.♔g1 ♗xe8, or 25.♖xh4 ♖hx3+ 26.♔h2 ♗xg2+.

SI 49.8

- Hodgson  
 ■ Nunn

London 1978

1.e4 c5 2.f4 ♖c6 3.f3 g6 4.♗c3 ♘g7  
 5.♙c4 d6 6.0-0 ♗f6

Strange enough, you don't see this set-up very often. White has no starting-point on e6, but the bishop diagonal to f7 remains free.

7.d3 0-0 8.f5

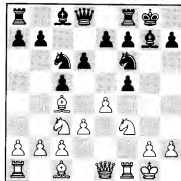
Here, too, White needs to play energetically. Anand has explained the drawback of 8.♖b3.

After 8...♗d4 9.♖e1 a5! (this is why the knight must not go to a5!) 10.♖h4 the threat of a5-a4 can be prepared with 10...♗d7, because 11.e5 a4 12.exf6 ♗xf6 is good for Black.

8...gxfs

You can only refute a sacrifice by accepting it! But the safer 8...a5! was still a good option.

9.♖e1



9...fxe4

Now it's already too late for 9...a5: 10.♖h4 ♗xc4 11.dxc4 ♗xe4 12.♗xe4 fxe4 13.♗g5 h6 14.♗xe4 ♖h7 15.♗g5+ ♔g8 16.♗e4 ♔h7 17.♖f1 ♗f6 18.d2 ♗d7 19.♖af1 ♖e8 20.♗g3, with a winning attack, Nilsson-Välkessalmi, correspondence game 1995/97.

But 9...♗d4! may well be a better idea than the text.

10.dxe4 ♘g4

10...♗d4!? is still a good alternative: 11.♖h4 ♖d7 12.h3 b5 13.♗d5 ♗xd5 14.♗xd5 f6 15.♗xd4 cxd4 16.♖f5, with an unclear position, Angelov-Kaminski, Tuzla 1990.

11.♖h4

The game Sorokin-Baburin, Voronezh 1988, saw 11.♗f4 ♗xf3 12.♖xf3 ♗h5 13.♗g5 ♗e5 14.♖h3 ♗xc4 15.♖h4! ♗d4+ 16.♔h1 ♗f6 17.♖h5 ♖f7 18.♗h6 ♗e5 19.♗d5 c4 20.c3 ♗c5 21.♖f1 ♔h8 22.♖f5 e6 23.♗g5! and Black resigned. Quite apart from the question of whether 11.♗f4 is stronger than the text,

this certainly is a fine attacking game!

11...♗xf3

Safer is 11...♗h5!? in order to help defend the castled position with ...♗g6.

12.♖xf3 ♗e5 13.♖h3 ♗g6

Black must not take the bishop: 13...♗xc4 14.♗d5!

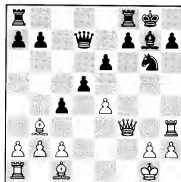
14.♖g3 ♖d7 15.♗d5

The weak spot in the black position is h7, which is why ♗f6 must be exchanged.

15...♗x5

Bad is 15...♗xe4? 16.♖f3 ♗f6 17.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 18.♖h5, and h7 falls.

16.♗d5 e6 17.♗b3 d5 18.♖f3 c4



19.♗a4! ♖xa4 20.♖h5 ♖f8 21.♖xh7+ ♔f8 22.♗h6 ♗xh6 23.♖xh6 ♖d7?!

The magnet sacrifice has forced Black into defensive mode even more, but this is the moment that he really slips up. After the game Nunn indicated 23...c3! as the correct move: 24.♖xg6 ♖d4+ 25.♔h1 ♖f2 (but not 25...cxb2? 26.♖f1 ♖f2 27.♖g7+ ♔e7 28.♖f6, winning!), with an unclear position: 26.♖h6+ ♔e7 27.♖g5+ ♔d7 28.♖f6 cxb2 29.♖f1 ♖b6.

24.♖f1 ♔e8

Otherwise White plays 25.♖xg6.

25.♖g8+ ♔f8 26.♖xe6+! ♔d8 27.♖xf8+ ♔c7 28.♖c5+ ♔d8 29.♖h6

Black resigned.

## SI 50.7

- Flesch  
 Kadar

Hungary 1979

**1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3**

The Morra gambit. If Black accepts the pawn, White will be ahead in development and get good chances along the c and d-files.

**3...dxc3**

Black can decline the gambit with 3...f6 or 3...d5, when positions from the Alapin variation 1.e4 c5 2.c3 arise.

**4.♗xc3 ♖c6 5.♗f3 g6 6.♖c4**

6.h4 has been played here, too. A nice example is Hjortstam-Genestier, correspondence game 1994/95: 6...f6 7.h5 ♗xh5 8.♖h5!?! gxf5 9.♗g5 h6?! (the laconic 9...♗g7 10.♖xh5 ♖f8 seems a better idea. How is White to proceed?) 10.♖xh5 ♗e5 11.♖b5!?! a6? (and here Black should have gone 11...hxg5! 12.♖xh8 ♗f6; White can then play 13.♖g8, with the threat of ♖b5-e2-h5, but the position is not very clear) 12.e6! ♗d3+ 13.♗d1 ♗xf2+ 14.♗c2 ♖b6 15.♗d5 ♖xe6 16.♗c7+, and wins.

**6...♗g7 7.0-0**

7.e5! is more accurate: 7...♗h6 8.♖f4 0-0 9.0-0, transposing to the game.

**7...♗h6?!**

According to Flesch, Black could have played 7...d6! here, e.g. 8.♖e2 ♗f6 9.♗d1 ♗g4 10.h3 ♗xf3 11.♖xf3 ♗e5 12.♖b5+ ♗d7 13.♖e2 a6, with good play for Black.

**8.♖f4 0-0 9.e5! ♖h8**

No stronger is 9...♗g4, e.g. 10.♗c1 ♗a5 11.♖d5 e6 12.♖e4 ♗c4 13.♗c1! ♗xc5 14.h3 f5 15.♖d5! ♗xf3+ 16.♖xf3 e5 17.hxg4 exf4 18.gxf5 d6 19.d5, with good play for White, Nei-Livshin, Kharkov 1956.

**10.♗e1 ♗g8**

The active 10...f6 has serious drawbacks; White simple takes on f6, after which 11...exf6 is met strongly by 12.d5, while 11...♖xf6 is followed by 12.♖d5.

**11.♗g5! ♗h6**

After 11...♖e8? White plays 12.♖b5 ♖b8 13.e6, while 11...e6 12.♖d3! f6 13.exf6 ♗xf6 14.♖d6 ♗e7 15.♖h3 h6 16.♗d1 leaves White with the better position. Thus the Hungarian Pálkövi.

**12.♖d2 a6 13.♗e3! ♗g4**

13...b5 is nicely refuted by 14.♗xh7!, e.g. 14...♖xh7 15.♖h3 or 14...bxc4 15.♖xh6! ♖xh6 (15...♖xh7 16.♖h3) 16.♖h3 ♖xd2 17.♗f6+, and mate. But the text leaves Black with a hopeless position as well.

**14.♖h3 ♗xe5 15.♗xh7 d5 16.♖h4**

Played very coolly. White is winning.

**16...♗xc4**

Or 16...dxc4 17.♗f6+ ♖h6 18.♖xh6 exf6 19.♗g7++ ♖xg7 20.♖h6+, and mate.

**17.♗f6+ ♖h6 18.♖e5!**

Black resigned in view of 18...♗xd2 19.♖xh6+ ♖g7 20.♖h7 mate.

## SI 50.8

 Burgess Jacobsen

Glimsbyerg 1992

**1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♗xc3 e6****5.♗f3 ♗c6 6.♖c4 ♖c5 7.0-0 a6 8.♖f4**

8.♖e2 ♗g6 9.♗g5!?! was a good alternative.

**8...♗e7**

After 8...d6!?! 9.a3! the threat of 10.b4 forces Black to play the ugly 9...e5, after which White plays 10.♗g5 ♗e7 11.b4 ♖a7 12.d5, and White is better. After 8...h5 9.♖b3 ♗e7 White plays 10.e5, as in the game.

**9.e5!?! 0-0**

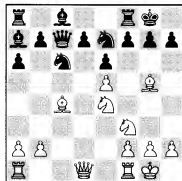
9...♗g6 is met simply by 10.♗g3, and if Black still insists on castling, White launches an attack with 11.h4.

**10.♗e4! ♖a7?**

This is not a good place for the bishop. It was badly needed for the defence of the kingside. But 10...♗g6 11.♗g3 ♖c7 also gives White a good position.

**11.♗g5 ♖c7**

11...♗xe5 12.♗xe5 f6 is beautifully refuted by 13.♗xf6 gxf6 14.♖xe6+ dxe6 15.♗xf6+ ♖g7 16.♗h5+.

**12.♗f6+! gxf6 13.♗xf6 f5**

This loses by force. But 13...h6 won't hold for Black either: 14.♖d3, and now 14...♗f5 15.♖a4! or 14...♗g6 15.♗g5! ♗xc5 16.♖h5.

**14.♗d4! h6**

After 14...♗xe5 White plays 15.♗xf5 exf5 16.♖h5 ♖d4 17.♖g5+ ♗g6 18.♖xd4 ♖xc4 19.♖f6, and wins.

**15.♗xf5 ♗xe5**

Or 15...exf5 16.♖h5.

**16.♖g4+!**

Very nice! Black is mated.

**16...♗xg4 17.♗e7+ ♖h7 18.♖d3**  
Mate.

## SI 50.10

 Belenko Rivlin

Correspondence game 1990

**1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♗xc3****8.♖e2 a6 9.♗d1 ♖c7 10.♖f4 ♖e7**

All these are standard moves. Thanks to the pressure along the c and d-files, White has enough compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

**11.e5**

For the alternative 11.♖a1, see the game Christensen-Nielsen.

**11...♗h5**

An example with 11...dxe5! is F.Andersen-Nicolaisen, Copenhagen 2000: 12.♗xe5 ♗xe5 13.♖xe5 ♖c6 (after 13...♖a5, 14.b4! is strong, e.g. 14...♖xb4 15.d5! ♗d5 16.♖xd5 ♖a4 17.♖xg7, with advantage for White) 14.♖b5! 0-0 15.♗c7 ♖a7 16.♖d3 b6 17.♖a1 ♖a4 18.♖c4 ♖xa2 19.♖f4 ♖d8? 20.♖xf6! gxf6 (or 20...♖xf6 21.♖e4) 21.♖g4+ ♖h8 22.♖xf6+ ♖xf6 23.♖h5+, and mate.

**12.♖g5**

12.exd6? ♗xf4 13.dxc7 ♗xe2+ 14.♖xe2 ♖d7 simply costs White a pawn.

**12...♖xg5**

White meets 12...d5?! strongly with 13.♖xd5, but 12...dxe5 is worth looking at, e.g. 13.♖xe7 ♗f4 14.♖e4 f5 15.♖c3 ♖xe7 16.♖xe5 ♗xe5 17.♖xe5 ♗g6, Pálkövi. White probably has compensation for the pawn, but the position is by no means clear.

**13.♖xg5 ♗f4**

13...♗e5? is refuted by 14.♖b5+!

**14.♖f3 dxe5**

After 14...♗e5 15.♖xf4, and now 15...♗xc4 16.b3 ♖e5 17.♖ce4 or 15...♖xc4 16.♗e4 0-0 17.♖a1, White has compensation in both cases.

## 15. ♖ce4



## 15... ♖d4?

This is most certainly wrong. According to an analysis by Pálkövi, Black should have played 15...0-0!, after which Pálkövi gives the continuation 16.g3 ♖g6 17.♗xh7! ♗xh7 18.♖h5+ ♗g8 19.♗g5 ♖d8 20.♖h7+ ♗f8 21.h4 ♖d1+ 22.♖d1 ♖d4 23.♖d3! ♖d8! 24.♗f7 ♖f3+ 25.♗f1 ♖d5 26.♖xg6 ♖h2+ 27.♗e1 ♖f3+ 28.♗e2 ♖d4+ 29.♗d2 ♖d7 30.♗g5 ♖f3+ 31.♗xf3 ♖xf3, with an unclear position. But you know: long analysis, wrong analysis!

## 16. ♖a3! f6

After 16...♖c2 White wins with 17.♖d6+ ♗f8 18.♖b5+ ♖xa3 19.♖xc7, while 16...♖e6 is strongly met by 17.♖f1!, e.g. 17...♖c2 18.♖d6+ ♗f8 19.♖a5 b6 20.♖xc5 ♖g6 21.♖g3 ♖xa1 22.♖dx7!, with a winning position.

## 17. ♖d6+ ♗d7 18. ♖ge4 ♖d5

No better is 18...f5 19.♖a1 ♖e4 20.♖b5+ axb5 21.♖xc7+ ♗xc7 22.♖c5+ ♗b8 23.♖xc5 ♖h3+ 24.♗f1! ♖e5 25.♖xg7, with a winning advantage for White.

## 19. ♖ac1 ♖c6

And here 19...♖b6 is no better: 20.♖xd5 exd5 21.♖xd4! exd4 22.♖c5+, with a winning attack.

## 20. ♖g3

20.♖xd5 wins as well; 20...♖xd5 21.♖c4.

## 20...g6 21. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6

After 21...♗d6 22.♖xd4 it is also finished.

## 22. ♖xe5 ♗e7 23. ♖xd4 ♖d7 24. ♖xe6

Black resigned.

SI 50.10

□ Christensen

■ Nielsen

Correspondence game 1982

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♖xc3 ♖c6 5.♖f3 d6 6.♖c4 e6 7.0-0 ♖e7 8.♖e2 a6 9.♖d1 ♖c7 10.♖f4 ♖f6

A nice example with 10...♖e5? is the game Kadar-Koszorus, Hungary 1979: 11.♖xe5 dxe5 12.♖a1 ♖a5 13.♖b1! axb5 14.♖xb5+ ♗f8 15.♖xe5 f6 (after 15...♖f6 is 16.♖d4! is very strong) 16.b4! ♖a7 (or 16...♖xb4 17.♖c4 ♖a3 18.♖h5 g6 19.♖xg6+ hxg6 20.♖xh8, with a strong attack) 17.♖h5 g6 18.♖xg6+ hxg6 19.♖xh8 ♖b6 20.♖e8! ♗xe8 21.♖xg8+ ♖f8 22.♖xg6+ ♗e7 23.♖c7+! ♖xc7 24.♖h7+, and Black resigned.

## 11. ♖ac1 ♖b8

Black could also have castled kingside: 11...0-0.

## 12.h3 0-0?

But now White has a strong continuation based on the less solid position of the queen on b8. Black should have played 12...e5 or 12...♖e5.

## 13.e5! ♖e8?!

13...♖h5 is simply met by 14.♖h2, but maybe Black should have gone for 13...dxe5! 14.♖xe5 ♖xe5 15.♖xe5 ♖a7 after all.

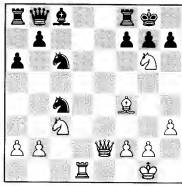
## 14. ♖xd6 ♖xd6

14...♖d6 looks quite dubious in view of the pin, but now White has a trick based on that very pin.

## 15. ♖xd6! ♖xd6 16. ♖d1 e5

After 16...♖d8 the white player has indicated the following win: 17.♖e4 e5 18.♖xe5 ♖xc4 19.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 20.♖g6 ♖a7 21.♖f6+! gxf6 22.♖e8+ ♗g7 23.♖f8+ ♗xg6 24.g4.

## 17. ♖xe5 ♖xc4 18. ♖g6



## 18...♖4e5?

Now it will go downhill fast. Relatively better was 18...♖a7, although White is better after 19.♖xf8 ♗xf8 20.♖xc4 ♖e6 21.♖e4, of course.

## 19. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 20. ♖xe5 ♖a7 21. ♖d5 ♖e6 22. ♖d4?!

An unnecessary move. White could have played 22.♖xg7! at once.

## 22... ♖b8 23. ♖e5 ♖a7?

With 23...♖e8 Black could still have made White's life quite difficult. It is true that White can win back the exchange with 24.♖c7, but the situation is no longer so clear-cut. From an aesthetic point of view, the slip-up on move 22 is regrettable.

## 24. ♖xg7!

The postman sometimes rings twice... Black is executed after all.

## 24... ♖xg7

Or 24...♖xd5 25.♖d4.

## 25. ♖e5+ ♖6 26. ♖xe6 ♖ad8?!

Black's last resort was 26...♖e5, when White plays 27.b4! ♖c6 28.♖f4!, and the endgame after 27...♖e6 29.♖xe6+ ♗g8 30.♖xf8 ♖xf8 31.♖d7 is very bad for Black.

## 27. ♖c1! ♖f7 28. ♖c7!

Black resigned in view of 28...♖f8 29.♖e7! ♖h8 30.♖f5+ ♗g6 31.♖c3, or 28...♖xc7 29.♖xf6+.

SI 50.10

□ Conroy

■ Paredes

Correspondence game 1993

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♖xc3 ♖c6 5.♖f3 d6 6.♖c4 e6 7.0-0 ♖f6 8.♖e2 a6 9.♖d1 ♖c7 10.♖f4 ♖d7?!

This is how Black prevents the advance e4-e5 from the game Belenko-Rivlin, but the text leaves the queenside pieces awkwardly placed. Besides, the king hangs around in the centre for far too long – with fatal consequences, as we will see.

## 11. ♖ac1 ♖b8

After 11...♖e7 the knight sacrifice 12.♖d5! is very strong (e.g. 12...exd5 13.exd5 ♖ce5 14.♖xc5 dxe5 15.d6, and White is winning).

## 12.b4!

Threatening 13.b5.

## 12... ♖ce5

Black is in deep trouble. The game Limbos-Logie, correspondence 1987, saw 12...b5? 13.♖d5! exd5 14.♖xd5 ♖b7 15.e5!, and Black resigned; after 15...♖dx5 16.♖xe5 dxe5 17.♖xc6 ♖xc6 18.♖xe5 his position is in tatters.

12...♖xb4? is not good either: 13.e5! d5 (or 13...dxe5 14.♖xe5 ♖xe5 15.♖xe5 ♖a7 16.♖b5+! ♖d7 17.♖d5! axb5 18.♖c7+ ♗e7 19.♖d6+, and Black is mated) 14.♖xd5! exd5 15.e6 ♖xf4 16.exd7++ ♗xd7 17.♖xd5, with winning threats. And 12...♖e7, finally, is simply met by 13.b5 axb5 14.♖xb5, with a large advantage for White.

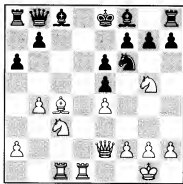
## 13. ♖xe5! dxe5

13...♖xe5 is met by 14.♖xe5 dxe5 15.♖b5+! axb5 16.♖xb5 ♖e7 17.♖c7+ ♗f8 18.♖xa8 ♖xa8 19.♖c4, winning.

## 14. ♖g5 ♖f6

The game Karlson-Khodov, Soviet Union 1958, saw 14...♖c7, followed by 15.♖x7! ♗x7 16.♖xe6+! (White blasts all the black king's defenses off the board with sacrifices)

16...♖xe6 17.♖c4+ ♜f6 18.♞d3 ♝b6  
 19.♞f3+ ♜g5 20.♞f7 ♜f8 21.h4+ ♜h6  
 22.♞f6+ g6 23.♞xb6, and White won.



15.♝b5!

And every time White can sacrifice a piece on b5!

**15...axb5**

15...♗d7 White plays 16.♗xe6!, and wins, e.g. 16...♗xb5 17.♗xf7+ ♜e7 18.♞d2 ♝xe4 19.♝xe4 ♜xf7 20.♞d5+.

**16.♗xb5+ ♗d7 17.♞xd7! ♝xd7 18.♞h5 g6 19.♞f3 f5**

All Black's moves are forced.

**20.exf5 ♜e7**

Or 20...gxf5 21.♞h5+, or 20...exf5 21.♞d5.

**21.♞b3 ♞d6**

Or 21...♜f6 22.♝e4+ ♜g7 23.♞xe6.

**22.♞d1 ♞a3 23.f6+! ♝xf6**

Everything loses, including 23...♜xf6 24.♝e4+ or 23...♜e8 24.♞xd6 ♞xb3 25.♞xd7 ♞b1+ 26.♞d1 mate!

**24.♞xd6 ♞xb3 25.♞xe6+ ♜d8 26.axb3**

Black resigned. There were too many threats.



# NICKEY Sicilian Defence

SI	1.e4 e5
SI 1	2.♘f3 d6 [3.♗b5+]
SI 2	2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4
SI 3	2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6
SI 4	5...a6 6.♗g5
SI 5	5...a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♖c7
SI 6	6...e6 7.f4 ♘bd7
SI 7	6...e6 7.f4 b5
SI 8	6...e6 7.f4 ♖b6
SI 9	6...e6 7.f4 ♗e7
SI 10	5...a6 6.♗e2
SI 11	5...a6 6.♗e2 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e7
SI 12	5...a6 6.f4
SI 13	5...a6 6.♗c4
SI 14	5...a6
SI 15	5...g6
SI 16	5...g6 6.♗e3 [6...♗g7]
SI 17	7.f3
SI 18	7.f3 ♘c6 8.♖d2 0-0 9.♗c4
SI 19	5...e6
SI 20	5...e6 6.g4
SI 21	5...e6 6.f4
SI 22	5...e6 6.♗e2
SI 23	5...e6 6.♗e2 a6
SI 24	7.0-0 ♖c7 8.f4 ♘c6
SI 25	5...♘c6
SI 26	5...♘c6 6.♗c4 e6
SI 27	5...♘c6 6.♗g5
SI 28	6...e6 7.♖d2 ♗e7 8.0-0-0 0-0
SI 29	6...e6 7.♖d2 a6
SI 30	6...e6 7.♖d2 a6 8.0-0-0 ♗d7

## Sicilian

Moscow  
Hungarian

Najdorf  
Najdorf  
Najdorf  
Polugaevsky  
Poisoned Pawn  
Main Line  
Geller  
Geller  
Najdorf  
Fischer  
Najdorf

Dragon  
Dragon  
Dragon  
Dragon

Scheveningen  
Keres  
Scheveningen  
Scheveningen  
Scheveningen  
Scheveningen

Sozin  
Velimirovic

Rauzer  
Rauzer  
Rauzer  
Rauzer

SI 31	2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5
SI 32	2.♘f3 ♘c6 [3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e5]
SI 33	4...g6
SI 34	4...♘f6 5.♘c3 [5...e6]
SI 35	4...♘f6 5.♘c3 e5
SI 36	6.♘db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6
SI 37	8.♘a3 b5
SI 38	9.♗xf6 [9...gxf6 10.♘d5]
SI 39	4...e6
SI 40	4...e6 5.♘c3 ♖c7
SI 41	2.♘f3 e6
SI 42	2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 5.♗d3
SI 43	2.♘f3 [2...a6; 2...♘f6]
SI 44	2.♘c3; 2.d3
SI 45	2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♗g2 ♗g7 5.d3 d6
SI 46	2.e3
SI 47	2.e3 ♘f6 3.e5 ♘d5
SI 48	2.b4; 2.b3; 2.♘e2; 2.♗c4
SI 49	2.f4
SI 50	2.d4

Rossolimo

De la Bourdonnais

Accelerated Fianchetto

Four Knights

Lasker  
Pelikan/Bird  
Sveshnikov  
Sveshnikov

Taimanov  
Taimanov  
Paulsen  
Paulsen

Nimzowitsch

Closed Sicilian  
Closed Sicilian

Alapin  
Alapin

Wing Gambit  
Grand Prix Attack  
Morra Gambit



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